



GREEN GIANT

Obama Mandates Steeper Greenhouse Gas Cuts

President Barack Obama speaks about his Clean Power Plan, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015, in the East Room at the White House in Washington. The president is mandating even steeper greenhouse gas cuts from U.S. power plants than previously expected, while granting states more time and broader options to comply.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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Gulf Arabs welcome Iran nuke deal but seek further assurance

MATTHEW LEE
ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Gulf Arab states on Monday welcomed the nuclear deal negotiated between Iran and world powers but said they would like further assurances that the U.S. would help them counter increasing Iranian assertiveness in the region. Speaking for the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, Qatar's top diplomat said Monday that the bloc had been impressed by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's presentation of the agreement and explanations of how it will be verified and enforced. "Consequently, the GCC countries have welcomed on this basis what has been displayed and what has been talked about by His Excellency Mr. Kerry," said Foreign Minister Khalid al-Attiyah, whose nation currently chairs the group. "He let us know that there is a going to be live oversight over Iran," al Attiyah said of Kerry's presentation. "This is reassuring to the region." Kerry had come to Doha seeking to ease such fears and said the United States would continue to expand security cooperation with the Gulf states to counter any destabilizing activities from Iran or others. "Once fully implemented, the (Iran deal) contributes to the region's long-term security, including by pre-

venting Iran from developing a military nuclear capability," Kerry said, reading from a joint U.S.-GCC statement to be issued

training, maritime and cyber security programs and a significant boost in intelligence sharing, Kerry said. Working groups on those

gey Lavrov and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir to discuss Syria and other regional issues. The three-way meeting is un-

National Coalition opposition group, he denied the meeting marked a shift in policy.

Lavrov also held talks with Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, who lives in exile in Qatar. The two leaders have met previously in Russia, in 2007 and 2010.

Al-Attiyah, the Qatari foreign minister, said the Gulf Arabs ultimately would like to see a ban on nuclear weapons in the entire Middle East — a pointed jab at Israel which is widely believed to have the bomb — and that the Iran deal could be the first step in a process to bring one about.

At the same time, he said GCC members remained concerned about Iran's possible designs in the region. While Monday's talks touched on a range of topics including conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, Kerry's main goal during the trip was to follow up on a May meeting that President Barack Obama hosted for Arab leaders at Camp David. At that meeting, Obama promised Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates enhanced security cooperation and expedited defense sales to guard against a potential Iranian threat.

"Today we made progress on what we laid out at Camp David but clearly there is more work to do," Kerry said. □



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, US Secretary of State John Kerry, center, and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir stand together before a trilateral meeting on Monday, Aug. 3, 2015 in Doha, Qatar. Kerry is meeting his Gulf Arab counterparts for talks in Qatar as he attempts to ease the concerns of key allies over the Iran nuclear deal.

(Brendan Smialowski/Pool photo via AP)

later.

He said that the nuclear deal might or might not affect Iran's behavior but that the U.S. and its allies must plan as if it would not. "Every state in the region hopes that there could be a change but we have to prepare for the possibility and eventuality that it won't," he said.

Among the steps under discussion are developing a ballistic missile defense capability, expediting arms transfers, special forces

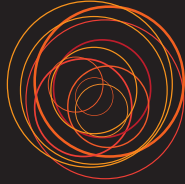
issues will begin meeting next week in Saudi Arabia, he added.

All of those are part of a package of programs that he said would build "stronger and more enduring strategic partnership with particular focus on counterterrorism and counter-

ing the destabilizing activities taking place in the region," he said. During his visit to the sweltering Qatari capital, Kerry met separately with Russian Foreign Minister Ser-


usual, because Russia has backed Syrian President Bashar Assad, while Saudi Arabia and the United States have called for his removal.

Lavrov gave no indication to reporters after the meeting that Moscow was preparing to shift its support for Assad as he called for dialogue between opposition groups and Assad's government. Although he met during his trip with Mouaz al-Khatib, a former president of the Syrian



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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy speaks in the East Room at the White House in Washington, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015, before President Barack Obama spoke about his Clean Power Plan. The president is mandating even steeper greenhouse gas cuts from U.S. power plants than previously expected, while granting states more time and broader options to comply.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Obama Mandates Steeper Greenhouse Gas Cuts

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama unveiled the final version of his plan to dramatically cut emissions from U.S. power plants, as he warned anew that climate change will threaten future generations if left unchecked. Touting the plan at a White House event on Monday, Obama said the unprecedented carbon dioxide limits are the “the single most important step” America has ever taken to fight climate change. He warned that because the problem is so large, if the world doesn’t get it right quickly, it may become impossible to reverse, leaving populations unable to adapt. Obama’s move represented a challenge to the rest of the world to take serious action as a global summit to finalize a landmark climate change treaty approaches at the end of this

year. “There is such a thing as being too late when it comes to climate change,” Obama said. The sweeping new regulations are also thrusting the divisive debate over climate change into the race for the White House, with candidates in both parties seeing an opportunity to capitalize. To Democrats, rallying around global climate change is a way to energize liberal supporters and paint Republicans as out of touch with the majority of Americans. To the Republicans, Obama’s executive actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions are burdensome to business and block job creation, an argument targeting Americans’ worries about the economy. Broad support for the rules by Democratic candidates and universal opposition from Republicans puts the parties’ eventual nominees on a general-election col-

lision course. Most of the changes Obama outlined would have to be implemented by the next president, if the rules survive court challenges. Republicans gave little indication of what they would do differently to curb emissions from U.S. power plants, if anything at all. They cast the measure requiring states to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent by 2030 as unnecessary and costly White House overreach that will raise energy costs for Americans. Opponents immediately announced they would sue the government to stop the rules from taking effect. The final version of Obama’s plan imposes stricter carbon dioxide limits on states than was previously expected: a 32 percent cut by 2030, compared with 2005 levels, the White House said. Obama’s proposed version last year called only for a 30 percent cut. □

Obama power plant rules spark 2016 fight over climate change

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama’s sweeping new U.S. power plant regulations are thrusting the divisive debate over climate change into the race for the White House, with candidates in both parties seeing an opportunity to capitalize. To Democrats, rallying around global climate change is a way to energize liberal supporters and paint Republicans as out of touch with the majority of Americans. To the Republicans, Obama’s executive actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions are burdensome to business and block job creation, an argument targeting Americans’ worries about the economy. The president unveiled the plan at the White House Monday, calling it the “single most important step” the U.S. has taken to combat a major global threat. Broad support for the rules by Democratic candidates and universal opposition from Republicans puts the parties’ eventual nominees on a general-election collision course. Most of the changes Obama outlined would have to be implemented by the next president, if the rules survive court challenges. Republicans gave little indication of what they would do differently to curb emissions from U.S. power plants, if anything at all. They cast the measure requiring states to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent by 2030 as unnecessary and costly White House overreach that will raise energy costs for Americans. The Obama administration itself estimated the emissions limits will cost \$8.4 billion annually by 2030, though the actual price won’t be clear until states decide how they would reach their targets. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, said the regulations would be an economic “buzz saw” that would “cost hard-working Americans jobs and raise their energy rates.” Jeb Bush, the former Republican governor of Florida, said the rules “run over state governments, will throw countless people out of work and increases everyone’s energy prices.” Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz questioned whether climate change is really occurring. “I’m saying the data and facts don’t support it,” Cruz said at a retreat sponsored by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, heavily courted donors who strongly oppose Obama’s climate change agenda. The issue has also fueled the fundraising race for Democrats. Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer dropped \$74 million into the 2014 November elections for candidates who support policies to curb climate change. Despite such spending, Democrats gave up control of the Senate, lost seats in the House and suffered embarrassing defeats in gubernatorial races. Steyer hosted a fundraiser earlier this year for Hillary Rodham Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. Clinton called Obama’s power plant measure a “significant step forward” and said she would defend it if elected president. □

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US-China nuclear agreement passes congressional review

M. PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An agreement allowing American involvement in China's civilian atomic industry is set to be renewed for 30 years despite some stiff criticism from lawmakers over the Asian nation's record on nuclear proliferation.

A 90-day congressional review period expired on Friday without legislative action or a joint resolution to block or alter the agreement. The State Department said Monday that the U.S. and China will decide "a suitable time in the near future" when the agreement will enter into force.

The current 30-year agreement expires at the end of the year.

The Obama administration had warned that ending U.S.-China nuclear cooperation would be devastating to the U.S. nuclear industry and would hurt bilateral relations and diminish American leverage

on non-proliferation and nuclear safety.

China has the world's fastest-growing atomic industry. Four American-designed reactors worth \$8 billion are under construction in China, and dozens more are planned or proposed that, industry advocates say, could support tens of

thousands of U.S. jobs.

Daniel Lipman, vice president at the Nuclear Energy Institute, said Monday he was pleased the agreement is "almost complete." He said China will be the single largest market for U.S. nuclear technology, goods and services for the foreseeable future. □

Senate blocks bill to halt funds for abortion provider

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate blocked a Republican drive Monday to terminate federal funds for abortion provider Planned Parenthood, setting the stage for the Republicans to try again this fall amid higher stakes — a potential government shutdown that could echo into next year's presidential and congressional elections. The derailed legislation was the Republican response to videos, recorded secretly by anti-abortion activists, showing Planned Parenthood officials dispassionately discussing how they sometimes provide medical researchers with tissue from aborted fetuses. Those videos have led conservatives to accuse the group of illegally selling the

organs for profit — strongly denied by Planned Parenthood — and inserted abortion and women's health into the mix of issues to be argued in the 2016 campaign.

Planned Parenthood receives more than \$500 million yearly in government funds — including state payments — more than one-third of its annual \$1.3 billion in revenue. It provides contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, abortion and other services for 2.7 million people annually, mostly women.

Monday's mostly party-line vote was 53-46 to halt Democratic delays aimed at derailing the bill, seven short of the 60 votes the Republicans needed. Even so, the Republican Party is hoping to reap political



Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks to reporters after the Senate conducted a procedural vote on Planned Parenthood on Monday, Aug. 3, 2015 on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate blocked a Republican drive Monday to terminate federal funds for Planned Parenthood, setting the stage for the GOP to try again this fall amid higher stakes.

(AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke)

gains because the videos have ignited the party's core conservative, anti-

abortion voters.

The fight is already creating heated talking points

for Republican presidential candidates, who convene Thursday for their first debate of the 2016 campaign. Several of them, including Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky, are calling for Congress to end Planned Parenthood's federal payments. In the longer term, Republican leaders are hoping that three congressional committees' investigations, plus probes in several states and the expected release of additional videos, will produce evidence of Planned Parenthood wrongdoing and make it harder for Democrats to defend the organization. Planned Parenthood provides contraception, testing for sexually transmitted diseases and abortions in clinics from coast to coast. □

US House Republicans claim votes to disapprove of Iran deal

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans said Monday that they have the party votes to disapprove of the Iran nuclear deal as Democrats stepped up their support of the agreement the Obama administration and other world powers negotiated with Tehran. Since Republicans hold a commanding 246 seats in

the House, it was widely expected that they would come up with 218 votes to support a resolution of disapproval, which has been introduced by Rep. Peter Roskam.

"Time is not the friend of this deal," Roskam said in a statement. "The more time members spend evaluating this agreement, the more they realize it's an historic mistake."

It's unclear, however, if there would be enough votes in the House to override President Barack Obama's expected veto of the legislation. The president is counting on fellow Democrats to sustain his veto, and House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi has said they will.

Obama would need 34 members of the Senate or 146 members of the House

to stand with him.

On Monday, Democratic Reps. Adam Schiff and Anna Eshoo joined an expanding list of representatives who have announced their support of the international accord.

Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said the deal "realistically precludes Iran from developing an atomic bomb" for at least 15 years.

Congress is engaged in a 60-day review of the deal, and Schiff's decision is a boost for Obama.

Eshoo said her decision was not based on trusting Iran. "To the contrary," she said, "the regime has a long list of offenses that I deeply object to, but there must be a mechanism in place to keep them from becoming a nuclear power." □

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Holmes jury keeps execution as option at trial

SADIE GURMAN
Associated Press
CENTENNIAL, Colorado
(AP) — Jurors on Monday moved one step closer toward sentencing James Holmes to death for his Colorado movie theater attack, taking less than three hours to reject arguments that the former neuroscience student's mental illness means he should not die.

The decision clears the way for one last attempt from both sides to sway the jury, with gripping testimony from victims about their suffering and more appeals for mercy for the man convicted of murdering 12 people and trying to kill 70 more during the 2012 assault at a Batman movie. Holmes, his reactions dulled by anti-psychotic drugs, stood as ordered and appeared emotionless as Judge Carlos Samour, Jr. read the decisions.

Robert and Arlene Homes held hands, their fingers interlaced, and directed their eyes at the floor. With each unanimous "yes," it became ever more clear that jurors believe their son's crimes outweighed their testimony. She began



Josh Nowlan, who was wounded in the 2012 movie theater shooting at Aurora, Colo., heads to court to hear the reading in penalty phase 2 in the trial of shooter James Holmes Monday, Aug. 3, 2015, in Centennial, Colo. Jurors declined to rule out death for Holmes as they moved toward sentencing the Colorado theater shooter.

to cry, and her husband held out a box of tissues. More tears flowed in the gallery. Rena Medek began silently sobbing when the judge read the name of her 23-year-old daughter Micayla. Ian Sullivan, the father of Holmes' youngest victim, 6-year-old Veronica Moser-Sullivan, closed his

eyes when her name was read. Veronica's grandfather, Robert Sullivan, glared at Holmes and nodded his head softly. The jury was told to return Tuesday morning for the final phase. Then, the nine women and three men will finally decide whether the 27-year-old Holmes should

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski) receive a lethal injection, or spend life in prison without parole. The same jury swiftly rejected Holmes' insanity defense, deciding that he was capable of telling right from wrong when he carried out the theater attack in the Denver suburb of Aurora on July 20, 2012. □

Cooler weather helps crews with California blazes

TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press
LOWER LAKE, California
(AP) — Cooler weather helped crews build a buffer Monday between a raging Northern California wildfire and some of the thousands of homes it threatened as it tore through drought-withered brush that hadn't burned in years.

At least two dozen homes were destroyed over the past few days, and more than 13,000 people were urged to flee.

The fire — the largest blaze in drought-stricken California — roughly tripled in size over the weekend to 93 square miles (240 sq. kilometers), generating its own winds that fueled the flames and reduced thousands of acres of manzanita shrubs and other brush to barren land in hours.

Lower temperatures and higher humidity allowed firefighters to contain more of the fire in the Lower Lake area, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of San Francisco, said CalFire Capt. Don Camp.

Numerous other wildfires in California, Washington state and Oregon took off as the effects of drought and summer heat turned the West Coast combustible. California blazes killed a firefighter last week and injured four others over the weekend in different areas.

Crews in the Lower Lake area conducted controlled burns, setting fire to shrubs to rob the blaze of fuel and protect some of 5,500 homes under threat. □

Man accused of killing police officer turns self in

ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press
MEMPHIS, Tennessee **(AP)** — An ex-con accused of fatally shooting a police officer who interrupted a drug deal turned himself in Monday, ending an intensive two-day manhunt, a spokesman for a U.S. attorney said.

Tremaine Wilbourn, 29, was with his family when he

turned himself in at a federal building in Memphis, said Louis Goggans, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

Wilbourn was a passenger in a 2002 Mercedes Benz that was parked illegally in a southeast Memphis neighborhood on Saturday night, police said. Officer Sean Bolton approached the car and Wilbourn got

out, confronted Bolton, and they got into a physical struggle, police said. Wilbourn took out a gun and fired, striking Bolton multiple times. The officer died at a hospital.

Wilbourn and the driver of the Mercedes ran away, and a civilian used Bolton's radio to notify police about the shooting. The driver later turned him-

self in to police, and was released without charges. Police sought Wilbourn on a first-degree murder warrant. Memphis Police Director Toney Armstrong said Bolton interrupted a drug deal, and officers found about 1.7 grams of marijuana in the car.

Wilbourn was on probation for an armed bank robbery. □



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US Financial Front:

American consumer spending edges up slightly in June



Butcher Jorge Gonzalez waits on a shopper at a local grocery store in the Little Havana area of Miami. The Commerce Department released its June report on consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, on Monday, Aug. 3, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Consumer spending in June rose by the smallest amount in four months as

shoppers cut back on purchases of cars and other big-ticket items.

Consumer spending edged up 0.2 percent in June, the poorest showing since a

similar increase in February, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

The modest advance followed a revised 0.7 percent rise in spending in May.

The increase had been driven by heavy spending on autos. But in June, auto sales slowed. Overall purchases of durable goods, the category that covers autos, fell 1.3 percent in June.

Personal income rose 0.4 percent for a third straight month, reflecting strong employment gains.

Economists didn't appear too concerned about the June spending slowdown.

"We still expect that a strengthening labor market will support spending growth in the second half of the year," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. He said he was looking for a solid gain in jobs of around 250,000 in July, which will help fuel further income gains. The government will report on July employment on Friday.

With income rising faster than spending, the personal saving rate climbed to 4.8 percent of after-tax income from 4.6 percent in May.

An inflation gauge closely

watched by the Federal Reserve rose by 0.1 percent in June, the same as in May. Over the past 12 months, this price gauge is up just 0.3 percent, reflecting big declines in oil prices. Prices excluding food and energy are up just 1.3 percent.

Those figures are well below the Fed's 2 percent target for annual increases in inflation.

For the full April-June quarter, consumer spending posted a solid gain, rising at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, much stronger than the 1.8 percent growth rate for spending in the first quarter. □

Manufacturing growth slows in July

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. factories were a little less busy last month.

The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index slipped to 52.7 last month from 53.5 in June. Economists had expected the index to remain unchanged. Any reading above 50 indicates growth. The index was inadvertently released before the scheduled publication time of 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the institute said. The cause of the early release "is being researched by our team," said Bradley Holcomb, chair of ISM's manufacturing business survey committee.

The index had risen in May and June before slipping last month. It hit a 12-month high of 58.1 last August.

Factories' exports are contracting, partly because a strong dollar makes U.S. goods more expensive.

"There are a lot of things that are weighing on exports," Holcomb said, citing the strong dollar, China's economic slowdown and uncertainty about a resolution to the Greek debt crisis.

Hiring slowed at U.S. factories last month, but production and new orders rose.

"The manufacturing sector will probably continue to struggle as the dollar has appreciated further recently and overseas demand has remained muted," Adam Collins, an economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a research report. "However, activity in other, larger parts of the economy has remained strong." □




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Greek stock market bloodbath as exchange reopens

DEREK GATOPOULOS
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece suffered its worst stock market bloodbath in decades on Monday, when it opened after a forced five-week closure, and new data showed a dismal outlook for the bail-out-dependent country's shrinking economy.

The main stock index shed over 22 percent just minutes into the opening, as investors got their first opportunity since late June to react to the latest twists in the country's nearly six-year economic drama.

The index closed 16.2 percent lower, with bank shares hitting or nearing the daily trading limit of a 30 percent loss. Collectively, Greek-listed companies lost about a sixth of their market value — almost 8 billion euros (\$8.7 billion).

"There's a sense of panic," said Evangelos Sioutis, financial analyst and head of equities at Guardian Trust. He noted some traders are selling stock merely to raise cash because there is so little liquidity in the

Greek economy. "There are no buyers," he said. "The outlook is not clear."

investors outside Greece have now largely cut off ties with the country. European shares closed higher.

down the financial system. People were panicking over the prospect that the country could fall out of the

terity, and resumed talks on a new bailout — the third since June 2010 — worth 85 billion euros over the next three years. Banks have reopened, however strict limits on cash withdrawals remain.

Three surveys published Monday illustrate the extent of the damage wreaked on the Greek economy in July by the bank closures, money controls and general uncertainty over the country's future.

Financial information company Markit said its gauge of manufacturing activity in Greece plummeted during the month to 30.2 points, its lowest ever reading, despite improvements across the rest of the 19-country eurozone.

"Manufacturing output collapsed in July as the debt crisis came to a head," Markit economist Phil Smith said. "Factories faced a record drop in new orders and were often unable to acquire the inputs they needed, particularly from abroad, as bank closures and capital restrictions badly hampered normal business activity." □



Employees of the Athens Stock Exchange look at stock prices which are on display on a ticker screen in Athens, Greece, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015. Greece's main stock index plunged over 22 percent as it reopened Monday after a five-week closure, giving investors their first opportunity since June to react to the country's latest economic crisis. (AP Photo/Yorgos Karahalios)

The last comparable plunge was in 1987, when the main index lost 15 percent. Markets in the rest of the world, however, were largely unaffected, a sign that

The Athens stock market and Greek banks were closed on June 29, when the government put limits on money withdrawals and transfers to keep a run on the banks from bringing

euro after its talks with international creditors broke down. The country's radical left-led government has since then capitulated to creditors' demands for new aus-

Turkey, Kurd rebels gear up for return to all-out conflict

DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press

LICE, Turkey (AP) — The military helicopters swooped in over the Kurdish heartland and dropped white incendiary powder on a raging brush fire — igniting a massive conflagration that raced through the mountains, devouring orchards and livestock. For Kurds living in nearby Lice, the recent Turkish operation brought back memories of the traumatic days in the 1990s when the army twice burned the town to the ground. The military

may have been trying to smoke out Kurdish militants, who had allegedly set off a car bomb near Lice killing a soldier and wounding four more. But locals in Lice, where the rebels have widespread support, see a more sinister motive: "Just like the old days," said local journalist Metin Bekiroglu, "they want to spread fear." In an abrupt reversal, Turkey and the Kurdish rebels appear to be hurtling toward the return of an all-out conflict that plagued the nation for decades, before a fragile peace process

was launched in 2012. A truce that has helped bring social and economic stability to Turkey evaporated only one week into the government's new offensive against the militant Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, which stretches from southeastern Turkey to northern Iraq. Old habits of militancy, killing and retaliation are returning to a region that until recently harbored hopes of joining mainstream Turkish life. Forest firebombing is not the only provocative method Turkey is using to put pressure on the Kurds. In

nearby Diyarbakir, the spiritual capital of Turkish Kurds, fighter jets are taking off for dozens of sorties to hit PKK strongholds in northern Iraq. The planes screech over the city as if to send a threat of destruction. Many Diyarbakir residents have relatives in the mountains among the Kurdish targets. "The message we hear from the jets is: 'We are in your heart and we will destroy your heart and your freedoms,'" said Adnan Seyit, who runs a cafe overlooking the Tigris river in Diyarbakir. He said that Kurds

have been surprised at the swiftness of the air mobilization — and that it is being executed in such a massive way. Turkish military authorities did not immediately respond to questions about its air campaign.

Around Lice — a highly contested prize at the height of the conflict — the new cycle of violence was triggered last week when Kurdish militants kidnapped a policeman in the area and hit the military convoy with a car bomb.

Continued on Page 27



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Troop reinforcements march on key rebel base in Yemen

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Hundreds of pro-government troops and dozens of tanks and armored personnel carriers pushed north toward the al-Anad military base in Yemen on Monday, as Saudi-led coalition airstrikes cleared the path for their advance, military officials said. The officials said allied fighters have gained control of

the western gate of the key base. Houthi officials said the base remains under rebel control amid fierce fighting and continuous Saudi-led coalition airstrikes. Al-Anad, once the site of U.S. intelligence operations against al-Qaida's powerful Yemeni affiliate, is the main rebel encampment in the country's south. Saudi and Emirati troops are assisting Yemeni pro-

government forces at al-Anad by operating many of the tanks and sophisticated military equipment, military officials said. A Yemeni military official said thus far, few Yemeni troops have been trained in operating the tanks that have arrived by sea from Gulf allies in recent weeks. He added that the Yemeni military sought help from coalition countries in the al-Anad operation, calling

them "partners in the liberation operation of Aden and other provinces." Military officials said allied fighters have cut off the main road between al-Anad and Taiz, which has seen heavy fighting, for the first time since the Houthis took control of it in March. Soldiers and allied pro-government forces are also reinforcing the front in the strategic southern city of Zanjibar, west of Aden, mili-

tary officials said. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. The fighting in Yemen pits the Houthis and troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against southern separatists, local and tribal militias, Sunni Islamic militants and loyalists of exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is now in Saudi Arabia. □

Report: US-led strikes in Iraq, Syria killed 459 civilians

VIVIAN SALAMA
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S.-led airstrikes targeting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria have likely killed at least 459 civilians over the past year, a report by an independent monitoring group said Monday. The report by Airwars, a project aimed at tracking the international airstrikes targeting the extremists, said it believed 57 specific strikes killed civilians and caused 48 suspected "friendly fire" deaths. It said the strikes have killed more than 15,000 Islamic State

militants. While Airwars noted the difficulty of verifying information in territory held by the IS group, which has kidnapped and killed journalists and activists, other groups have reported similar casualties from the U.S.-led airstrikes. "Almost all claims of noncombatant deaths from alleged coalition strikes emerge within 24 hours — with graphic images of reported victims often widely disseminated," the report said. "In this context, the present coalition policy of downplaying or denying all claims of noncombatant fatalities makes little sense, and risks handing



Smoke rises while Iraqi security forces backed by Shiite and Sunni pro-government fighters and U.S.-led coalition launches airstrikes against Islamic State militant group positions in Anbar University in Ramadi, Anbar province, Iraq. An independent monitoring group says some bombings carried out by the U.S.-led coalition targeting the Islamic State group likely have killed hundreds of civilians. The coalition had no immediate comment on the report released Monday, Aug. 3, 2015.

(AP Photo)

(the) Islamic State (group) and other forces a powerful propaganda tool." The U.S. launched airstrikes in Iraq on Aug. 8 and in Syria on Sept. 23 to target the Islamic State group. A coalition of countries later joined to help allied ground forces combat the extremists. To date, the coalition has launched more than 5,800 airstrikes in both countries. The U.S. has only acknowledged killing two civilians in its strikes: two children who were likely slain during an American airstrike targeting al-Qaida-linked militants in Syria last year. □

Syrian air raids, warplane crash kill at least 27 people

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Government air raids in a northwestern town in Syria and a subsequent crash by a Syrian warplane that slammed into a residential area there killed at least 27 people on Monday, activists said. The raids on the town of Ariha came amid intense clashes between government forces and insurgents in the northwestern province of Idlib and the central

region of Hama. The town, once a government stronghold, was captured by opposition fighters and Islamic militants in May. Government forces have suffered setbacks in Idlib province since March, including the loss of the provincial capital of the same name. An activist group known as the Local Coordination Committees said the warplane crashed in a busy market, adding that it was not immediately clear

whether it was shot down. The LCC said 27 people were killed and many others were wounded. Rami Abdurrahman, who heads another activist group, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the plane crashed in the town center, destroying several homes. The Observatory later said that 31 people were killed and more than 60 were wounded. The Ariha Today Facebook page posted

a photo showing at least seven buildings reduced to rubble on a narrow street. It said 27 people were killed but that 12 of them have not been identified yet. The group also listed 55 wounded, including nine women. The discrepancies in the different casualty figures reported could not be reconciled. The Observatory and the LCC said that at the time of the crash, the town was under attack by Syrian President Bashar

Assad's air force. An amateur video posted online by activists showed several damaged buildings, as well as parts of the plane that crashed. The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting of the events. Syria's civil war began in March 2011. U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon said last week that at least 250,000 Syrians have been killed in the conflict so far. □

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Police: Messages for No. 1 Mafioso hidden in Sicilian soil

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The No. 1 Cosa Nostra fugitive communicates with henchmen using written messages buried in dirt or hidden under boulders on sheep ranches and comes and goes from Sicily, possibly thanks to high-level protection, investigators said Monday after nabbing some of his alleged accomplices. In early morning raids in the countryside of western Sicily, police took into custody 11 men investigators contend helped convicted Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro wield power de-

spite being at large since 1993. Investigators described how Messina Denaro, 53, disdains telecommunications and relies on handwritten notes, or "pizzini," to relay orders. The notes were wadded tight, covered in tape and hidden under rocks or dug into soil until go-betweens retrieved them. The messages were ordered destroyed after being read. Messina Denaro was convicted in absentia as a mastermind of 1993 bombings in Rome, Florence and Milan. The attacks were aimed at intimidating in-

vestigators after "Boss of Bosses" Salvatore Rina was arrested in Palermo following two decades as a fugitive. After the 2006 arrest of Bernardo Provenzano, after 43 years in hiding, Messina Denaro became the most-wanted Mafia chieftain. Police used eavesdropping devices and video cameras hidden in trees near farmhouses to help discover the message-delivery system. During more than two years of investigation, police monitoring tapped phone conversations began to recognize a pattern.



An Italian police officer takes in custody Ugo Di Leonardo, left, one of the 11 men suspected of helping No. 1 Cosa Nostra fugitive Matteo Messina Denaro, in Palermo, Italy, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015. (AP Photo/Alessandro Fucarini)

Whenever one of the alleged Messina Denaro aides used to speak of "sheep," "fertilizer" and "ricotta," a cheese that can be made from sheep's milk, other suspects would soon come to the farmhouses, the Italian daily La Repubblica said, quoting one of the investigators. The investigators eventually figured out such farm talk were actually code words signaling there were messages for or from the

fugitive. Among those arrested was a 77-year-old sheep grazer who investigators said played a key role in the message system. "Don't let yourself be deceived by the fact they were simple ranchers," Prosecutor Teresa Principato told reporters at a news conference in Palermo. "These were very loyal men of Messina Denaro" and who "carried weight inside the organization." □



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Netherlands: 1 rescued as cranes fall on houses

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Rescuers pulled a survivor from under the wreckage of apartments and shops flattened on Monday shortly after two cranes being used in the restoration of a bridge in a central Dutch city toppled onto a row of buildings, a fire department spokesman said. One man had been pulled alive from the rubble in Alphen aan den Rijn, and rescuers including sniffer dogs would work deep into the night combing the scene for any other victims who might have been trapped, said Ton Koot, a spokesman for the local

fire department. "We hope that the number of victims stays at this one man who was taken to hospital with hip problems," Koot said in a telephone interview. Earlier, Koot said that initial reports of between seven and 20 injured victims were based on estimates of the number of people who might have been in the houses when the cranes slammed into them. "We are stabilizing the situation so rescue workers can go in," Koot said. Two teams usually deployed to overseas disasters such as earthquakes were at the scene with five specially trained sniffer dogs. □



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Venezuela prevents opposition leader from running

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan election officials rejected a high-profile opposition leader's attempt to register as a candidate Monday for upcoming congressional elections.

Former congresswoman Maria Corina Machado announced that the National Elections Council had rejected her attempt to register to run in the Dec. 6 elections and called it a grotesque violation of her rights.

Machado is among the hard-line leaders who called for President Nicolas Maduro to resign last year and helped lead sometimes bloody street protests demanding an end to the South American country's socialist administration. The ruling party stripped her of her congressional seat amid the protests.

Machado has become one of the most visible faces of the opposition,

continuing to lead protests against Maduro.

In July, elections officials barred her and a handful of other high-profile critics of the country's socialist administration from holding office. Officials say Machado failed to make required financial disclosures. The state prosecutor's office has also accused her of conspiring to assassinate Maduro, a charge she denies as ridiculous.

The December elections represent the opposition's best chance in years to deliver an electoral defeat to the 16-year-old socialist revolution ushered in by late President Hugo Chavez. Polls show the opposition leading strongly as Venezuelans tire of chronic shortages, crime and inflation. On Monday, Machado introduced a substitute candidate for the seat she had hoped to win: Caracas sociology professor Isabel Pereira Pizani. □



Opposition leader and former lawmaker Maria Corina Machado greets supporters as she leaves the National Electoral Council (CNE) where soldiers stand guard in Los Teques, Venezuela, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015, after she was not allowed to register her candidacy for December's congressional elections. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Amnesty report blasts police killings within Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Rio de Janeiro's police force operates with "total impunity," targeting mostly young, mostly black and mostly poor people in the Olympic city's violent slums for extrajudicial executions, Amnesty International alleged in a report Monday. The group accuses Rio's police of wielding an "unnecessary and disproportional use of force" and suggests racism has helped institutionalize police killings in the city.

It also says police often try to cover up executions by labeling them "resistance killings" in which victims allegedly die in a gunbattle with officers or by planting

weapons on corpses.

The report also criticizes police oversight bodies and the public prosecutor's office, saying they largely fail to investigate such killings. "The police continue to regularly use force in an arbitrary, unnecessary and excessive manner, with total impunity," the report's executive summary said. The report was based on an investigation into 10 police killings in 2014 and 2015 in the Rio slum of Acari, which found that four of the victims were wounded or had surrendered before they were killed, four were fired on without warning and another was fleeing when he was gunned down. □



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Misery for those in Puerto Rico who can't leave

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Most tables are empty at Walter Martin's coffee shop in San Juan's colonial district. His brow is furrowed with concern and glistens with sweat in the sweltering Caribbean morning. He's turned off the air conditioning to lower his power bill. With fewer customers, he's cut staff hours and tried to make up the lost income by raising some prices. But Puerto Rico's entrenched economic crisis is leading people to either cut their personal spending to the basics or flee to the mainland to search for jobs, contributing to the struggles of those left on the island.

"We're making every single adjustment needed," Martin said. "We have to make these decisions because if not..."

He trailed off, hesitant to complete the sentence.

Nearly 10 years into a deep economic slump, Puerto Rico is no closer to pulling out, and, in fact, is poised to plummet further. The unemployment rate is above 12 percent. Some 144,000 people left the U.S. territory between 2010 and 2013, and about a third of all people born in Puerto Rico now live in the U.S. mainland. Schools and businesses have closed amid the exodus. The population of 3.5 million is expected to drop to 3 million by 2050. The government has tried to boost revenue by hiking the sales tax to 11.5 percent, higher than any U.S. state, and closing government offices. Its debt-burdened power utility already charges rates that on average are twice those of the mainland, and is under pressure from bondholders to raise them higher.

A \$58 million bond payment due Saturday went unpaid. If defaults continue, analysts say Puerto Rico will face numerous lawsuits and increasingly limited access to markets, putting a recovery even more out of reach.

Carmen Davila, a 65-year-old retired truck driver and

window dresser, recently withdrew her money from the bank amid fears the government would shut down and seize it.

"Things are happening in Puerto Rico that we've never seen before," Davila said. "Puerto Rico has always had its ups and downs, but you could handle it. This now is serious."

The exodus of people from the island, mainly to central Florida and New York, is

boost the economy," he said. "This is the worst I've seen it. ... There are no people on the street. They've disappeared."

His lottery business has fallen by nearly 10 percent, forcing him to keep grocery shopping to the basics and to cut back on luxuries such as movies and restaurants.

"What you used to do three or four times a month, now you only do once,"

days cut, and energy costs reduced.

The administration of Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla has argued public agencies, including the utilities, should be allowed to declare bankruptcy. As a U.S. territory, Puerto Rico is barred from doing so even though supporters say it would provide an orderly way for the island to restructure its debt.

U.S. open-end municipal



A homeless man stands in front of a closed down fast food restaurant in the colonial district of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015. As Puerto Rico's economy continues to decline a list of cost-cutting measures proposed by a group of hedge funds that holds \$5.2 billion of Puerto Rico's debt has riled islanders: laying off teachers; cutting Medicaid benefits; and reducing subsidies to the main public university.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

palpable. Nearly everyone knows someone who has left, or plans to do so soon. The impact of the departures, and the decline in spending of those remaining, is obvious.

Crowds have thinned at restaurants and movie theaters; families like Davila's have cut back on summer excursions to beaches and mountains; and even San Juan's notorious traffic jams have dwindled somewhat. Jose Hernandez said his commute into San Juan's colonial district, once about two hours, now takes roughly 20 minutes.

The 62-year-old lottery vendor would join the departure, too, if not for the grandchildren he helps support — even though he recognizes doing so would only add to the trouble.

"Fewer people means there are less of us to help

he said. "You cut out a lot of things." Davila said her monthly \$600 Social Security payment isn't enough to cover expenses. She and other relatives are pooling their money to buy back-to-school supplies for her 12 grandchildren. She cares for them while her own children work and study, but she yearns to move back to New York.

"We don't have money to live," she said.

A list of cost-cutting measures proposed by a group of hedge funds that holds \$5.2 billion of Puerto Rico's debt has riled islanders: laying off teachers; cutting Medicaid benefits; and reducing subsidies to the main public university.

Meanwhile, a report commissioned by the government called for wage levels to be set below the federal minimum, paid holi-

bond funds own more than \$11.4 billion of Puerto Rico's debt, while hedge funds hold about one-third. Morningstar said investors likely face more volatility and cuts to their investments.

"Puerto Rico is far from out of the woods," it stated. "It's clear that this is setting up to be a long and complicated ride."

In addition to the already difficult situation, Puerto Ricans are bracing for a new services tax set to take effect Oct. 1.

Some economists warn that measures like new taxes could further depress the economy, a concern shared by small business owners.

"They're going to keep going until the people can't take it anymore," said Ignacio Veloz, who owns a condominium administration business. □

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

Dominicans block border crossings into Haiti: Report

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) The main truckers' union in the Dominican Republic has blocked transport of all freight through border crossings into neighboring Haiti. Union president Blas Peralta said Monday truckers are protesting recent violence against Dominican truckers by Haitians. He says the blockade will continue until Haiti provides better security on its side of the border. Normally, some 200 trucks each day bring tons of food, construction materials and other goods to border crossings on the island of Hispaniola, which is shared by the two countries. Haiti is the Dominican Republic's biggest export market after the U.S. The truckers' protest comes as the Dominican Republic has been under international scrutiny for immigration policies that affect mostly Haitians and people of Haitian descent. □

In Trinidad, poll gives slight edge to ruling party

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — A new poll suggests there will be a very tight contest between Trinidad and Tobago's ruling coalition and the main opposition party in next month's general elections. Poll results published Sunday in the Trinidad Express give a slight edge to Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar's faction. The survey was commissioned by the newspaper. It suggests her coalition could win with a one-seat margin in Sept. 7 national elections. In May 2010, her People's Partnership won 29 of 41 seats. Data analysis company SBS conducted the survey July 6 -22 with 1,412 adults in the country's 257 polling divisions. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points. □



One more week to go:

Ateliers 89 Invites You to Explore Caribbean Linked III



ORANJESTAD - Caribbean Linked III, the greatest international art event on Aruba for 2015, starts at Ateliers '89 on Wednesday August 12. But not without your participation as artist, art student, art lover or else. Here is how!

Ateliers 89 invites members of the public to a series of artistic presentations given by the guest speakers of Caribbean Linked between the 13th and 24th August.

Caribbean Linked is a residency program and art exhibition organized by Ateliers '89 Foundation in collaboration with ARC Inc. and The Fresh Milk Art Platform Inc. Our main sponsor is Stichting DOEN with additional support from the Mondriaan Foundation and the Prince Claus Fund.



Caribbean Linked is a crucial blueprint for building awareness across diverse and often uncommunicative creative communities in the Caribbean and its diaspora by finding ways to connect young and emerging artists with each other. Each year selected participants engage in a two week residency which includes open discussions and critiques, and the visiting of established local artists' studios to better understand the creative environment of Aruba.

This year's public programming consists of presentations given by the artists,



critics and coordinators in residence. Held week-nights from 8-9:30pm in the Black Box at Ateliers 89, speakers will include:

-13th August - Natusha

Croes (Aruba) and Jodi Minnis (The Bahamas).

-14th August - Ronald Cyrille (Martinique) and Aiko Roudette (St. Vincent & The Grenadines).

-17th August - Holly Bynoe of ARC Magazine and Diego Espinosa (Mexico).

-18th August - Leasho Johnson (Jamaica) and Marvi Johanna Franco Zapata (Curacao).

-19th August - Alex Kelly (Trinidad & Tobago) and Manuel Mathieu (Haiti).

-20th August - Simone Asia (Barbados) and Leo Aguirre (Aruba).



Continued on Page 16



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Second Quarter Awards presented at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino

EAGLE BEACH - Martha Nu-boer and Franklyn Palmer of the Food & Beverage department, joined Ainsley "Wayne" Murray of the Engineering Department as they accepted the Employee of the Month awards respectively for April, May & June, during an informal gathering over lunch, at the conference room, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino. The three diligent resort employees had outshined all other associates during the second quarter of the



year, and were singled out for special recognitions for the hard work and dedication they demonstrated.

Also nominated for April, Elsa Benjamin, Accounting and Antonio Fawcett, Recreation; Nixon Castillo, was nominated for May, while Diahaira Vrolijk, Owners' Services, and Vicente Guerrero, Food & Beverage, were the runner-ups for the month of June. As Supervisor of the Second Quarter, Desiree Henriquez, Owners' Services landed top honors, with the entire accounting crew announced as Team of the Second Quarter, lauded for excellent, consistent performance. During the gathering two valuable members of the team celebrated their 5th

anniversary at the resort, Stephanie Maduro, Food & Beverage and Rosanne Roy, Human Resources. Miguel Rasmijn of the Food & Beverage department celebrated his 10th anniversary. Pictured here some snapshots from the nicely attended award ceremony. □



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Ateliers 89

Continued from Page 13

-21st August – Razia Barsa-
tie (Suriname) Natalie Mc-



Guire (Barbados).

-24th August - Annalee Da-
vis of Fresh Milk Barbados.
In addition, guest cura-
tor David Bade from the



Instituto Buena Bista will
be closing the public pro-
gramming with a presenta-
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August, from 8pm.
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Sweden's gold medal winner Sarah Sjöström celebrates after setting a new World Record in the women's 100m butterfly final at the Swimming World Championships in Kazan, Russia, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015.

Associated Press

Sjöström and Hosszu set world marks at swim championships

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

KAZAN, Russia (AP) — The women are getting it done at the world swimming championships.

Sarah Sjöström of Sweden lowered her own world record in the 100-meter butterfly to win gold Monday night, and then Katinka Hosszu of Hungary erased a world mark from the high-tech suit era to claim the 200 individual medley. Earlier Monday, American teenager Katie Ledecky bettered her own world record in the 1,500 freestyle preliminaries.

Four world records set in the first two days of pool swimming — and all by women.

"Unbelievable," American Ryan Lochte said. "I'm glad to see world records get broken. It gets more people behind swimming so that's awesome."

Continued on Page 21



POWER RANGERS

Perez sharp as Rangers beat Giants 2-1

Page 19

Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton (32) is met at home plate by teammate Mitch Moreland after hitting a two-run home run, scoring both players, during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015.

Associated Press

Andy Murray returns to DC tournament for 1st time since 2006

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Andy Murray is back on hard courts for the first time in four months — and back at the Citi Open for the first time in nine years.

The two-time major champion is seeded No. 1 at the U.S. Open tuneup that began Monday, getting his game in gear on the surface on which he won his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows in 2012.

Like other highly seeded players,

Murray received a first-round bye, so his initial match in Washington, where he hasn't played since he was the 2006 runner-up, comes Wednesday against Benjamin Becker or Teymuraz Gabashvili. That will be Murray's first competition on a hard court since losing in the final at Miami to top-ranked Novak Djokovic in early April.

"It does take a while, especially coming from the grass. This morning was the first time when I hit and started to feel more comfortable on the courts, feel like I'm starting to get used to them again. Obviously the conditions here, when compared with Wimble-



Andy Murray, of Britain, speaks at a press conference at the Citi Open tennis tournament, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015, in Washington.

don, is completely different. Extremely humid. Very high-bouncing courts," said the third-ranked Murray, who lost to No. 2 Roger Federer in the semifinals at the All England Club last month.

In the Citi Open's first completed match, Louisa Chirico of the U.S. beat Heather Watson of Britain 6-3, 6-0.

"It takes quite a bit of time to get used to the conditions again and that's why I arrived here (last) Tuesday," said Murray, who went on a guided tour of the White House. "That would be the earliest I ar-

rive to any event before my first match, pretty much in the whole year."

His season so far: three titles and a 48-7 record.

"The year as a whole, obviously, has been good. It's been much, much better than last year. So there's been some progress

there," Murray said. "But obviously I want to keep trying to do better, and hopefully these next few weeks, I can go on a good run on hard courts and finish the year strong."

At the majors, Murray reached one final (losing to Djokovic at the Australian Open) and a pair of semifinals (losing to Djokovic again at the French Open).

"In terms of goals, one of the things I spoke about at the beginning of the year was consistency, and trying to make sure I did better at more of the events than I had done in the past. And I feel like that's obviously been a positive," Murray said.

"The Grand Slams are tournaments I want to win. Haven't quite managed to do that yet this year, but I feel like I've played well in all of the Slams.

The French Open was the best I've ever played on the clay. The Australian Open, I was very close there, I felt.

And unfortunately at Wimbledon, Roger played an unbelievable match.

He served extremely well there and was just too good on that day." □

Associated Press

Ex-broadcaster Craig James sues Fox Sports over firing

DAVID WARREN

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Former college football television analyst Craig James on Monday filed a religious discrimination lawsuit against Fox Sports that contends he was fired because he had expressed opposition to gay marriage during a failed run for the U.S. Senate.

The former running back for Southern Methodist University and the New England Patriots is seeking at least \$100,000 in damages. Fox hired him in August 2013 — months after he lost the Texas Senate primary to Ted Cruz — only to fire him days later.

James filed his suit in Dallas County, where he is seeking a jury trial to hear claims against the network

that include breach of contract and violations of state law.

Fox Sports didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Monday

on the lawsuit, and a Dallas attorney for the network did not immediately return a call for comment.

James was a longtime color commentator for ESPN who quit to run for the Senate in 2012. During the campaign, James said he opposed gay marriage and that gay people would one day "have to answer to the Lord for their actions."

Last year, James filed a complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission over his firing. Fox later issued a statement saying James was hired by regional executives and was not "properly vetted."

James has alleged that a national Fox Sports spokesman told The Dallas Morning News that James was terminated from

Fox Sports Southwest for religious beliefs against same-sex marriage.

James is being represented in his lawsuit by the Texas-based Liberty Institute.

Hiram Sasser, deputy chief counsel with the conservative advocacy group, said that when Fox fired James, the network publicly stated that his view on marriage was a reason. Sasser said that James was fired after Sports Illustrated magazine contacted Fox about the hiring in light of James' comment during a primary debate that he opposed gay marriage.

"It's pretty rare that a company engages in religious discrimination in the firing of an employee and then issues a statement confirming that's the reason," Sasser said. □



In this May 24, 2012 file photo, Texas Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate Craig James gestures during a press conference in Houston.

Associated Press

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Hamilton homers, Perez wins as Texas edge Giants 2-1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Josh Hamilton hit a two-run homer and Martin Perez allowed only two hits to earn his first win in his comeback from elbow surgery as the Texas Rangers edged the San Francisco Giants 2-1 on Sunday.

Perez (1-2) threw 8 1/3 innings, leaving after allowing a one-out, ninth-inning double to Angel Pagan. Sam Dyson earned his first career save, getting a game-ending double play after allowing a bases-loaded, RBI single to Buster Posey.

In Perez's previous start last Monday, he failed to get through the second inning against the New York Yankees and allowed eight earned runs in a 21-5 loss. Hamilton homered into the right-field corner off Mike Leake (9-6), who made his first start with San Francisco. Before that, Texas had put eight runners on without scoring.

METS 5, NATIONALS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Curtis Granderson, Daniel Murphy and streaking Lucas Duda homered in a span of five pitches, a sudden power strike that charged up Citi Field and helped the Mets complete a three-game sweep.

Noah Syndergaard (6-5) struck out nine over eight innings, and New York pulled within percentage points of first-place Washington in the NL East. Tyler Clippard got the last three outs for his first save with the Mets.

New York finished a wildly eventful 6-4 homestand that featured one trade that fell through, the ad-

ditions of four new players — including slugger Yoenis Cespedes — and a 162-game drug suspension for reliever Jenrry Mejia.

Anthony Rendon hit his first homer of the season, and Yunel Escobar also went deep for Washington.

Jordan Zimmermann (8-7) gave up the five runs, six hits, two walks and struck out seven in six innings.

CARDINALS 3, ROCKIES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Brandon Moss had his first big hit with St. Louis, a game-ending single in the ninth inning, and Randal Grichuk had a two-run homer to lead the Cardinals.

Moss' one-out hit to left off reliever Scott Oberg (2-2) drove in Jason Heyward, who doubled with one out. Closer Trevor Rosenthal (2-2) pitched a perfect inning to help the Cardinals win for the ninth time in 12 games and improve to a major league-best 40-16 mark at home.

Colorado has lost four of five.

St. Louis jumped to a 2-0 lead on Grichuk's home run off Colorado starter Johan Flande in the fifth. It was Grichuk's 12th homer of the season and fifth since the All-Star break.

Colorado tied it in the sixth on Ben Paulsen's RBI double and a wild pitch by reliever Steve Cishek.

CUBS 4, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Closer Hector Rondon nearly squandered a three-run lead, and rookie Kris Bryant got hurt in the Cubs' win that completed a four-game sweep.

Starter Clayton Richard (2-0) and the Cubs' bullpen



Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton follows through on his swing, hitting a two-run home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015.

held off the Brewers until the ninth, when Rondon allowed the first two runners to reach base with his team leading 4-1.

Ryan Braun scored on a groundout with one out, and Hernan Perez drove in another run with a two-out single. Rondon then got pinch-hitter Logan Schafer to line out sharply to center for his 16th save.

Bryant left in the fifth after sliding headfirst into second and appearing to get tagged on the helmet by shortstop Jean Segura. Bryant's neck or upper back also appeared to bump into Segura's leg.

Bryant, who reached on an RBI single off Kyle Lohse (5-13), was running after a throw to the plate was cut off. Bryant was lifted for a pinch runner after a safe call was upheld on a replay review.

DODGERS 5, ANGELS 4, 10 innings

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andre Ethier hit his second dramatic home run in three innings, a two-run shot in the 10th, and Howie Kendrick also homered to lead the Dodgers to a three-game Freeway Series sweep of the sputtering Angels.

Drew Rucinski (0-2) walked Adrian Gonzalez with one

out in the 10th before Ethier deposited the rookie right-hander's 1-1 pitch into the Angels' bullpen in right field for his 12th homer and the Dodgers' NL-leading 131st home run.

Pedro Baez (4-2) got the victory with 1 1/3 innings of relief.

Three days he was acquired from the Miami Marlins in a three-team, 13-player trade involving the Atlanta Braves, Mat Latos yielded a run and four hits over six innings in his Dodgers debut and departed with a 2-1 lead.

ASTROS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Collin McHugh threw seven solid innings, and Carlos Gomez delivered a two-run, go-ahead single to lead Houston.

Evan Gattis added a solo home run in the fifth to give the Astros the three-run lead.

McHugh (13-5) won his fourth straight start, giving up one run and eight hits with six strikeouts. The right-hander, who is tied for the AL lead in wins with teammate Dallas Keuchel, has allowed two runs or less in three of his last four starts.

Pat Neshek threw a perfect eighth, and Luke Greger-

son pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

Jose Altuve and Jason Castro both had two hits for the Astros, who are an AL-best 38-18 at home.

BRAVES 6, PHILLIES 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jace Peterson had three hits, including a three-run home run, and Julio Teheran pitched seven strong innings as Atlanta snapped a season-worst six-game losing streak.

Chris Johnson, Jonny Gomes and Ryan Lavanway all had an RBI for the Braves, who won for just the second time in their last 15 road games to avoid a four-game series sweep.

Ryan Howard had two hits, one a double, for the Phillies, who lost for just the third time in 15 games since the All-Star break.

Teheran (7-6) earned his first road win since his season debut on April 6 at Miami.

Adam Morgan (2-3) surrendered four runs and seven hits in five innings in his seventh career start.

MARLINS 5, PADRES 2

MIAMI (AP) — Adeiny Hechavarria hit a three-run home run off Brandon Maurer with one out in the ninth inning to lift Miami past San Diego. □

Associated Press

AL Capsules

Yankees rough up Samardzija, rout White Sox 12-3

CHICAGO (AP) — Jacoby Ellsbury and Mark Teixeira homered against Jeff Samardzija as the New York Yankees pounded the White Sox.

Stephen Drew added three hits and four RBIs, helping the AL East-leading Yankees close out a 6-4 road trip — matching a season high. Ellsbury drove in three runs, and Didi Gregorius had two hits and two RBIs. New York also got a lift from Ivan Nova (4-3), who pitched six innings of five-hit ball in his third consecutive victory. Nova's previous start on Monday at Texas was cut short by arm fatigue, a condition he contributed to his comeback from Tommy John surgery in April 2014. Nova allowed just one run on Melky Cabrera's RBI single in the sixth.

Samardzija (8-6) was tagged for nine runs, matching a season high, and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

ATHLETICS 2, INDIANS 1, 10 innings

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mark Canha hit a two-out double in the 10th inning to drive in Sam Fuld and lift Oakland past Cleveland.

Fuld singled off Cody Allen (1-3) before Canha hammered a 3-1 pitch off the wall in left-center. Fuld raced around third base and slid into home, easily beating the relay throw from shortstop Francisco Lindor.

Canha entered the game as a pinch-hitter in the fifth inning. It was the first game-ending hit of his career.

Francisco Rodriguez (2-1) pitched one inning for the win, striking out Lindor with the go-ahead run on third base in the top of the 10th. Fuld finished with two hits while Billy Burns drove in

with two runners on. Fernando Rodney (4-4) pitched around a walk in the 10th, and Tom Wilhelmson allowed a leadoff double in the 11th before recording his second save

struck out the final three batters for his 26th save. Trailing 3-2, Evan Longoria opened the eighth with a double off the Green Monster against Junichi Tazawa (2-4). One out later,

rest, Dickey (6-10) allowed just two hits, both singles, and walked two in winning his third straight start. Roberto Osuna got the last four outs for his seventh save.

Volquez (10-6) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings.

TIGERS 6, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP) — Daniel Norris took a three-hitter into the eighth inning in his Detroit debut and J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer as the Tigers earned a split of the four-game series.

Norris (2-1) was obtained by the Tigers on Thursday in the deal that sent former Cy Young Award winner David Price to Toronto. Making his seventh career start, the 22-year-old Norris provided a glimpse of his potential against a contender that won seven of its previous eight games.

Norris allowed one run, four hits and a walk in 7 1/3 innings — the longest outing of his career. The left-hander hadn't started in the majors since April 30, and was 3-10 with a 4.27 ERA for Triple-A Buffalo this season. Baltimore's Ubaldo Jimenez (8-7) gave up six runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

In other AL games it was Toronto 5, Kansas City 2; Detroit 6, Baltimore 1; Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3; Houston 4, Arizona 1; N.Y. Yankees 12, Chicago White Sox 3; Seattle 4, Minnesota 1, 11 innings; Texas 2, San Francisco 1; Oakland 2, Cleveland 1, 10 innings; and L.A. Dodgers 5, L.A. Angels 3, 10 innings. □



New York Yankees' Carlos Beltran, front, slides safely into home plate on a Didi Gregorius single as Chicago White Sox catcher Geovany Soto tries to apply the tag during the fourth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Oakland's other run.

Lonnie Chisenhall singled and scored for Cleveland, which has lost two straight. MARINERS 4, TWINS 1, 11 innings

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Logan Morrison's RBI double in the 11th inning put Seattle ahead and Austin Jackson added a two-run double to help the Mariners outlast Minnesota.

Rookie Ketel Marte had three hits and a walk in his third major league game for Seattle, which split the four-game series and won for the second time in seven games.

Reliever Kevin Jepsen (2-6) lost his Minnesota debut after being picked up before Friday's trading deadline. Jepsen walked two batters and struck out Nelson Cruz

in as many chances.

RAYS 4, RED SOX 3

BOSTON (AP) — Asdrubal Cabrera had a game-tying RBI double and scored on James Loney's single in the eighth inning, helping Tampa Bay avoid a three-game sweep.

Brandon Guyer opened the game with a homer for the Rays, who had lost 13 of their last 16 road games. David Ortiz had an RBI for Boston, passing Hall of Famer Andre Dawson for 37th place with his 1,592nd RBI.

The Red Sox were looking for their first sweep of a series of three or more games since early June.

Steve Geltz (2-4) got the victory, retiring the only batter he faced. Brad Boxberger, the fourth reliever,

Cabrera hit his ground-rule double over the head of right fielder Rusney Castillo. Loney followed with a bloop hit to center.

BLUE JAYS 5, ROYALS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Chris Colabello hit a two-run home run, R.A. Dickey threw seven shutout innings as Toronto beat Kansas City in a testy matchup while taking three of four from the AL's top team.

Both benches and bullpens emptied after Toronto reliever Aaron Sanchez was ejected for throwing at Kansas City's Alcides Escobar in the eighth. It was the climax of a game-long spat that began when Royals starter Edinson Volquez hit Josh Donaldson on the left arm in the first.

Pitching on three days'

BMC Cycling team blames race organizers for San Sebastian crash

DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

BMC Racing Team is blaming organizers and the sport's governing body after cyclist Greg Van Avermaet was taken out by a race motorbike while leading the Clásica San Sebastian, the latest in a string of accidents that have knocked out riders for the U.S.-based team. Van Avermaet had at-

tacked on the final climb of the Spanish one-day race Saturday when he was plowed into from behind by a motorbike. The Belgian rider had opened a sizeable gap on the rest of the field, but the incident spoiled his chances of holding on for the victory.

Adam Yates of Orica-GreenEdge attacked moments later and went on

to win.

"This was not a sporting incident. This was caused by pure negligence, which cost the team millions of dollars in lost publicity," BMC Racing Team president Jim Ochowicz said Sunday in a statement.

"We plan to explore every legal option available to us."

Legal options are tricky, of course, given the inter-

national nature of cycling. Laws vary by nation, and it is still unclear who is ultimately to blame: race organizers, the motorbike rider, the TV network that employed it, even the UCI, cycling's global governing body.

"This is the second time this year we have had an incident with a local organizer of a WorldTour race where they have acted in a scan-

dalous fashion," Ochowicz said. "The UCI has been nowhere in this to resolve the problem."

Earlier this year, BMC rider Peter Stetina fractured his right leg, hurt his knee and broke five ribs when he crashed near the finish of a stage of Vuelta al Pais Vasco. Stetina was riding at a high speed when he hit a metal pole that was left in the road. □

Swim Championships

Continued from Page 17

Sjostrom first broke the mark set by American Dana Vollmer at the 2012 London Olympics in the semifinals on Sunday. In the final, the Swede led at the turn and won by a body length, touching in 55.64 seconds. She dipped a hundredth of a second

cried as she stared at the clock. Her husband and coach, Shane Tusup, wiped tears from his eyes using the neck of his black T-shirt bearing Hosszu's nickname "Iron Lady." After the medal ceremony, Tusup joined Hosszu on the deck and he kissed her in front of photographers. She offered him her gold medal and he playfully

2:08.77. American Maya Di Rado was fourth and teammate Melanie Margalis finished seventh. Adam Peaty gave Britain its first gold medal in the temporary pool at Kazan Arena with a comeback victory in the 100 breaststroke. Former world record holder and current Olympic champion Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa led at the turn under Peaty's pace set in April. But Peaty overtook van der Burgh in the closing meter, getting his hand on the wall in 58.52 for the gold. Van der Burgh was second in 58.59. Peaty's teammate, Ross Murdoch, took third in 59.09.

"I turned and I saw his foot and I was like, 'Right, I've got some catching up to do now,'" Peaty said. "About 25 meters out he was still in front so I was a bit skeptical. But I remembered what I trained for is moments like this and I came out on top thankfully."

Van der Burgh's strategy was to go out fast and try to make Peaty catch him. "It was hard. A pile of bricks came down on me in the last five meters," Van der Burgh said. "We knew it was going to be a close race. Credit to him, he finished strong, and that's the way he won the race."

Peaty broke van der Burgh's 2012 world mark earlier this year to become the first man in history under 58 seconds in the event. "There's only one more tick box and hopefully I'm ready for that next year," said Peaty, who is aiming for his first Olympics next summer in Rio de Janeiro. Florent Manaudou of France won the men's 50 butterfly in 22.97.

Nicholas Santos of Brazil finished second in 23.09. Laszlo Cseh of Hungary and Konrad Czerniak of Poland tied for bronze in 23.15.

Lochte was the leading qualifier for the 200 free-style final on Tuesday night that features a loaded field including Sun Yang of China, Chad le Clos of South Africa, world record holder Paul Biedermann of

Germany, James Guy of Britain and Cam McEvoy of Australia. Russia's Yuliya Efimova, whose doping ban ended earlier this year, led qualifying for the 100 breaststroke final on Tuesday night. She will duel world record holder Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania, who was second-fastest in the semifinals. Mitchell Larkin of Australia topped the semifinals of the 100 backstroke, dipping briefly under world-record pace on the first lap. Also advancing to Tuesday night's

final were Camille Lacourt of France and Olympic champion Matt Grevers of the United States. In the women's 100 backstroke semifinals, Emily Seebohm of Australia qualified fastest after being under world-record pace on the opening lap. Also advancing to the final on Tuesday night was Missy Franklin of the United States and teammate Kathleen Baker, who moved into the semis after Hosszu withdrew.

"I love Katinka," Baker said. "I'm so pumped." □



Hungary's gold medalist Katinka Hosszu poses after the medal ceremony for the women's 200m individual medley final at the Swimming World Championships in Kazan, Russia, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015.

Associated Press

lower than her mark a day earlier while finishing 1.41 seconds ahead of Jeanette Ottesen of Denmark. "My plan was to break the world record in the semifinals because there is always more pressure in the final," Sjostrom said. "So I'm very happy that I could show myself that I could swim even with all this pressure."

Ottesen earned silver in 57.05 and Lu Ying of China took bronze in 57.48.

Hosszu defended her 2013 title in the 200 IM, winning in 2 minutes, 6.12 seconds. That bettered the old mark of 2:06.15 set by American Ariana Kukors at the 2009 worlds in Rome during a time when the sport was rocked by swimmers setting a slew of world records in rubber suits that were eventually banned.

Hosszu covered her mouth with her left hand and

took a bite out of it. "She's been training for eight, 10 hours a day minimum. She pretty much eats, sleeps and swims. She runs her swimming as a business," Tusup said. "To see the hard work and everything finally pay off in one race at one time is just unbelievable for me." Hosszu trains in the United States and met Tusup when they were swimmers at the University of Southern California. She's known for keeping a grueling schedule of events at meets, and has five left in Kazan.

Earlier Monday, Hosszu was the top qualifier in the 100 backstroke preliminaries, but she scratched the semifinals to focus on the 200 IM.

Kanako Watanabe of Japan earned silver in 2:08.45 and Siobhan O'Connor of Britain took bronze in

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SAT 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50
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AMY SCHUMER | BILL HADER

TRAINWRECK

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15
FRI 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15 | 12:00
SAT 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

RACHEL MCADAMS | JAKE GYLLENHAAL

SOUTHPAW

MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15
FRI 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:55
SAT 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 3:55 | 6:35 | 9:15

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ANT-MAN 3D

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MON-THURS 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
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SAT 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25

NAT WOLFF | CARA DELEVINGNE

PAPER TOWNS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 9:10
FRI-SAT 9:10 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 9:10

ADAM SANDLER | KEVIN JAMES

PIXELS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

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Diack fights back at allegations of widespread doping

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — With his federation embattled by widespread doping allegations that could lead to a reshuffle of Olympic and world championship podiums for more than a decade, IAAF president Lamine Diack defended his organization's anti-doping record and dismissed the accusations as a "joke" on Monday.

Diack, who will be stepping down later this month after 15 years at the helm of the International Association of Athletics Federations, also questioned the timing of the reports, which came out three weeks before the track and field world championships in Beijing, which run from Aug. 22-30. "They are playing with the idea of a redistribution of medals," Diack said at the International Olympic Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur. "It's possible, if we prove with the new techniques at our disposal that someone doped. Otherwise, it's a joke. Just three weeks before the world championships, there is something behind."

Diack spoke after German broadcaster ARD and The Sunday Times newspaper in Britain said they ob-



International Association of Athletics Federations President Lamine Diack, right, speaks with a fellow International Olympic Committee member during the 128th IOC session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Monday, Aug. 3, 2015.
Associated Press

tained access to the results of 12,000 blood tests involving 5,000 athletes. The leaked files came from the database of the IAAF.

The report found that 146 medals — including 55 golds — in disciplines ranging from the 800 meters to the marathon at the Olympics and world championships were won by athletes who have recorded suspicious tests.

The Sunday Times said that 10 medals at the 2012 London Olympics were won by athletes with suspicious results, and that in some finals every athlete in the

medal positions had recorded a dubious blood test.

"There is a film and a newspaper who are asking questions," said Diack. "We are going to answer them all. But it's not (just) because someone has a suspicious profile once that he was doped. When people say that there are medals to be redistributed from 2001 to 2012, it's just a farce."

The IOC has previously stripped medals from athletes who have been retroactively found guilty of doping offenses dating

back to the time of the games. The IOC also stores Olympic doping samples for 10 years for possible re-testing.

IOC president Thomas Bach said it is up to the World Anti-Doping Agency to investigate the allegations, including that one-third of medals in endurance races at the Olympics and world championships from 2001 to 2012 were won by athletes who recorded suspicious blood tests.

"If there should be cases involving results at Olympic Games, the IOC will react

with zero tolerance with our usual policy," Bach said. "But at this time, we have nothing more than allegations. We have to respect the presumption of innocence of the athletes."

Diack, who also suggested that the allegations were timed to overshadow the IAAF presidential election on Aug. 19 that will pit Sebastian Coe against Sergei Bubka, did not specify which countries could be interested in a redistribution of medals.

His comments appeared to leave former WADA President Dick Pound perplexed.

"I'm not sure what he meant. Whether he's worried about it's too long, too late to do some of those or who knows," said Pound, who is heading a WADA commission investigating earlier allegations of widespread doping and cover-ups in Russia, particularly in track and field.

Anti-doping scientist Robin Parisotto, who reviewed the data obtained by the media outlets from the period covering 2001 to 2012 with blood doping expert Michael Ashenden, has been critical of IAAF, saying many athletes appeared to have doped with impunity. □

John Isner wins Atlanta Open for 3rd straight year

MATT WINKELJOHN

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — John Isner won the Atlanta Open for the third straight year, beating Marcos Baghdatis 6-3, 6-3 on Sunday at Atlantic Station.

The top-seeded former University of Georgia star has reached the finals in Atlanta in five of the past six years and is 20-3 in the event. He has 10 ATP Tour titles.

Even his dog, an English Cocker Spaniel named Magill (after Georgia's former sports information director and tennis coach, Dan Magill), was in Atlanta. His parents brought the dog to Atlanta from their home in Greensboro, North Carolina.



John Isner hoists the championship trophy after defeating Marcos Baghdatis, of Cyprus, in the singles final at the Atlanta Open tennis tournament Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015, in Atlanta. Isner won 6-3, 6-3.
Associated Press

"I love this tournament. It's obvious," Isner said. "(Magill) is a good size to travel with, a little too big to fly. He's awesome, my

best friend. He puts me at ease."

Isner beat an injured player.

The fifth-seeded Baghdatis

began struggling physically early with a bothersome groin muscle/tendon that first flared up more than a month ago.

Shortly into a 59-minute match, the fifth-seeded Baghdatis knew he had a problem, and he felt it was worse because he had limited recovery time after his three-set win late Saturday night vs. Gilles Muller.

The 30-year-old Isner by that time was about six hours removed from a straight-set semifinal win over qualifier Denis Kudla.

"It's not a new injury . . . the muscles got really tight. I felt it immediately on my second serve and volley," said Baghdatis, who was playing in his 12th ATP final after falling in his previous

seven semifinals. "I didn't want to show anything, but it was impossible to control it."

"It's always tough to have a match in (17) hours, especially when your opponent has (22). We are humans, you know, and you want to be able to play a final with the crowd loving it."

After scoring off Isner's second serve to start the match, Baghdatis was finished.

From there, he lost all 15 points on Isner's first serve in the first set, and scored just twice against Isner's final 38 service games. Plus, Isner registered whopping return win percentages of 39.1 and 45.2 percent in the two sets. □

Canadian rivers: Solution to Northeast's high energy prices?

RIK STEVENS

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Plenty of raw electricity sloshes around in Quebec's rivers and reservoirs, promising relief for U.S. northeasterners, who pay the nation's highest power costs. But getting those electrons to smartphones and air conditioners in Boston, Hartford and New York City is another matter entirely. In review or under construction are five large-scale hydropower proposals that could pump thousands of megawatts into the Northeast and ease prices as supply increases. But critics worry that transmission lines will despoil the natural beauty of places like New Hampshire's White Mountains, and that overreliance on it will stymie efforts to trim consumption and develop renewable energy sources closer to home. "Our view is that there is a role for Canadian hydropower in the New England power grid," said Tom Irwin, vice president and director of



In this June 22, 2010 photo, the Jean-Lesage hydro electric dam generates power along the Manicouagan River north of Baie-Comeau Quebec.

in the third quarter of this year, almost 7 cents higher than the national average. New York and New Jersey are expected to pay 16.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. The six New England governors say reining in the costs is a high priority and in April announced they would work together on solutions. Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker in July sought to require utilities to work with the state to pur-

als currently in review or under construction could pump thousands more megawatts into the Northeast, putting more downward pressure on prices as supply increases.

So many factors go into a consumer's bill — including supply, demand, usage and the prices of other fuels at any moment in time — that it's hard to pinpoint the effect more Canadian hydropower will have on an individual.

Canada is the world's third-largest generator of hydropower, behind China and Brazil, and still has plenty of untapped capacity. Canadian generators added 5,000 megawatts of hydropower over the past 10 years — enough to power 5 million homes — and expect to match that in the coming decade, said Jacob Irving, president of the Canadian Hydropower Association. The country could potentially double its existing capacity, he said. "For the U.S. and its desire to have a cleaner and more reliable electricity system, when they look north, I think they can do so with confidence," he said. Developing that electricity system locally has proven a challenge. It's hard enough to get buy-in to string power lines or pipelines through the densely populated, educated and politically savvy Northeast. Building a dam or putting up a wind farm stirs even deeper antipathy. In New England, that Canadian hydropower es-

entially comes from one provider: Hydro-Quebec. An EIA report shows that in 2014, it exported more than 28 percent of the Canadian power that made it to the U.S., nearly double the next largest exporter, the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board.

Associated Press

electricity on mostly overhead power lines through New Hampshire to southern New England markets including Boston, Hartford and Providence, Rhode Island. It's one of a handful of current proposals to expand Canadian hydropower in the region: They include:

— New England Clean Power, 1,000 megawatts, under Lake Champlain and across Vermont.

— Champlain Hudson Power Express, 1,000 megawatts, 330 miles mostly under Lake Champlain and New York's Hudson River to New York City.

— Maine Green Line, a 300-mile cable underground and under the ocean to the Boston area.

— Northeast Energy Link, a 230-mile underground line from Orrington, Maine, to Tewksbury, Massachusetts. Building Northern Pass alone could save the re-



In this Oct. 29, 2009 photo, electric power lines cover the landscape in Levis, Quebec.

Associated Press

Conservation Law Foundation-New Hampshire, an environmental advocate. "It's had a role, we expect it will continue to play a role and we expect that role will increase. But we think that to the extent it increases, that it be done in a thoughtful way and in a way that doesn't undermine the development of renewable resources at the local level." The Energy Information Administration in June forecast New Englanders would pay a tops-in-the-nation 20.2 cents per kilowatt-hour

sue long-term contracts to bring hydropower into the state as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help ratepayers. In 2014, 1.6 percent of the electricity purchased in the U.S. came from Canada, 60 percent of it pouring into New England and New York, according to the EIA. In those markets, Canadian imports made up 12 to 16 percent of the retail electricity sales, enough to significantly move the needle on the region's power costs. Five large-scale hydro propos-



In this Sept. 27, 2014 file photo, Brad and Sue Wyman paddle their 1930's Old Town Guide canoe along the Androscoggin River as leaves display their fall colors north of the White Mountains in Dummer, N.H.

Associated Press

Hydro-Quebec's 62 generation facilities — all but one are hydro plants — can produce 36,500 megawatts, enough to power 36.5 million homes. By comparison, the operator of New England's power grid, ISO-New England, puts total generating capacity in the six states at 31,000 megawatts. Hydro-Quebec has been a player in the U.S. market for about four decades, and spokesman Gary Sutherland said sending more power south is a strategic goal. Hydro-Quebec is working with Eversource Energy, based in Hartford, Connecticut, on the \$1.4 billion Northern Pass plan to send 1,200 megawatts of

gion \$250 million to \$300 million a year in wholesale energy costs each year, Eversource spokeswoman Lauren Collins said.

Critics have assailed the project for what they say will be irreparable damage to New Hampshire's scenic beauty, the environment and property values along the route, compared with other proposals that largely call for buried lines.

"Other transmission developers are not just suggesting it, but are actively doing it, in ways that don't have the same negative impacts that Northern Pass would," said Jack Savage, a spokesman for the Society for the Protection of new Hampshire Forests. □

Wall Street drops led by free-fall in energy sector

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Another bad day for the energy sector pulled down stocks on Monday.

Energy stocks slumped as the price of oil dropped to its lowest in more than four months. Oil has fallen sharply since the end of June on evidence that a global supply glut is building at the same time demand appears to be slowing.

The energy sector is down 15 percent this year, making it easily the worst performing industry group in the S&P 500 index. Earnings at energy companies have dropped almost 60 percent in the second quarter. "Certainly, oil production has been strong globally," said Serena Vinton, a portfolio manager at Franklin Templeton. "And with some of the global economic concerns and strong global production, it creates a nervous environment for oil."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 5.80 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,098.04. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 91.66 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,598.20. The Nasdaq composite slipped 12.90 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,115.38.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.95, or 4.1 percent, to close at \$45.17 a barrel in New York. U.S. crude has been sliding since reaching a high this year of \$61.43 a barrel on June 10.

Overall, stocks have been in the doldrums since the S&P 500 closed at an all-time high of 2,130 on May

21. Short sell-offs have been followed by short rallies as investors have weighed signs of an improving U.S.

mand for the luxury fashion retailer's handbags is dropping off. Analysts at investment bank Canac-

improvements across the rest of the 19-country eurozone. A separate survey showed that business and



Barnes & Noble CEO Max Roberts, center, and COO Patrick Maloney, right, meet with specialist Gennaro Saporito, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, after Barnes & Noble Education began trading, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

economy against signs of weakening growth overseas.

Among individual stocks, Tyson Foods was the biggest loser in the S&P 500 index Monday. The meat producer slumped \$4.39, or 9.9 percent, to \$39.96 after cutting its outlook for fiscal 2015 earnings.

The company, which owns the Jimmy Dean breakfast sausage brand, blamed conditions in the beef market for its woes, citing high cattle costs and "export issues" as factors that were hurting its profits.

Michael Kors was another big loser, dropping \$3.28, or 7.8 percent, to \$38.71 amid concern that de-

cord cut their price target on the stock ahead of the company's latest earnings report due out Thursday.

In Europe, Greece's stock market sank 16 percent as it reopened from a month-long shutdown brought on by the near collapse of the country's financial system during its high-wire bailout negotiations.

Two surveys published Monday showed the damage caused to the Greek economy in July by the bank closures, money controls and uncertainty over the country's future.

A gauge of manufacturing in Greece plummeted in July to the lowest reading ever recorded, despite

consumer confidence fell for a fifth consecutive month in July to its worst level since October 2012.

"The fundamentals of the country are still so weak and so uncertain," Jorge Mariscal, regional chief investment officer for emerging markets at UBS Wealth Management. "Clearly, the market is trading these assets as what they are, distressed assets."

Even after reaching the basis of a deal with its creditors, Greece still has to demonstrate that it can deliver on its pledges for reform, he said.

Investors also got an update on how the U.S. economy is doing. □

Son demotes dad in battle for South Korea retailer: AP

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— A family battle for control of South Korea's largest retailer has erupted in public after the group's 92-year-old founder was demoted to a powerless role in the business by his youngest son.

Shin Dong-bin, 60, has been trying to solidify his control of the Lotte conglomerate, which has businesses in South Korea, Japan, China and Southeast Asia, in the face of opposition from his older brother Shin Dong-joo, 61, and his father Shin Kyuk-ho.

Shin Dong-bin on Monday said his brother and father had attempted to sack him as chairman of Lotte but their efforts had no legal standing.

In response to those maneuvers, Lotte had earlier demoted Shin Kyuk-ho to honorary chairman, from general chairman overseeing Lotte's businesses in Japan and South Korea. It said the demotion was necessary to prevent the 92-year-old from being manipulated by people seeking control over the company.

Family-owned business conglomerates dominate South Korea's economy. Feuds that spill outside the inner circle provide the public with an occasional glimpse into the inner workings of business empires that for the most part are opaque and unaccountable.

Samsung chairman Lee Kun-hee fought a long legal battle with his older brother over their inheritance and the sons of the Hyundai founder battled each other for control of the group during their father's last years.

Shin Kyuk-ho, one of the many Koreans who migrated to Japan when the Korean peninsula was under Japanese rule, founded Lotte as a chewing gum maker in Japan in 1948.

It grew into a retail behemoth with businesses spanning the region. □

Sears 2Q sales fall as it spins off real estate

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. (AP)

— Sears Holdings Corp. says a key sales figure fell sharply in the second quarter, particularly dragged down by weakness at its namesake stores. It's at least the 10th straight quarter that the metric has declined.

The operator of Sears and Kmart stores said that sales at stores open at least a year dropped 10.6 percent for the quarter to date. This

figure is considered an important measurement of a retailer's operating performance because it excludes results from stores recently opened or closed. The retailer also said it expected that proceeds from the spinoff of some of its real estate will lead it to report a second-quarter profit of between \$155 million and \$205 million, which has also helped shore up its cash position. Investors

sent Sears' stock up \$1.38, or 6.5 percent, to \$22.93 in premarket trading.

At Sears stores, the metric declined 13.9 percent. It fell 6.9 percent for Kmart locations.

The Hoffman Estates, Illinois-based company said Monday that soft consumer electronics sales hindered its performance. Excluding that business, sales at stores open at least a year fell 9.1 percent, with

a 5.4 percent decline at Kmart stores and a 12.5 percent drop at Sears locations.

Sears Holdings also announced the extension of a \$3.28 billion credit line. The company said the credit line, along with \$2.7 billion in proceeds from the sale of more than 200 properties to a real estate investment trust it spun off, gives it more financial flexibility. □

UK to start selling shares in nationalized bank RBS

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government said Monday it will start selling its majority stake in taxpayer-owned Royal Bank of Scotland — the first step in recovering money from the country's costliest-ever bank rescue. The UK Financial Investments, which manages the government's stakes

in banks bailed out during the 2008 financial crisis, will start immediately by placing to large investors a 5.2 percent stake in the bank — worth about 2 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion) at Monday's share price. As a result, the government's overall holding will be reduced from 78.3 percent to approximately 73.2 percent.

Treasury Chief George Osborne had earlier this year outlined plans to sell part of its stake in RBS. Even though RBS's shares are trading for less than the government paid for them, some analysts believe selling a small stake now will make it easier and more profitable to sell the rest of the government holding in the future.

The Treasury injected about 45.8 billion pounds (\$70.6 billion) into RBS in 2008 and 2009 to keep the bank solvent during the global financial crisis. RBS has paid the government about 6.2 billion pounds in dividends and fees since that investment. The government's stake is currently valued at 31.2 billion pounds. That means the govern-

ment would lose 8.4 billion pounds if the entire stake was sold at Monday's closing price of 337.6 pence. A previous report by investment bank Rothschild in June had estimated the government would lose 7.2 billion pounds if the government's stake was sold at current prices. But the share price has fallen since then. □

Alpha is latest coal producer to seek bankruptcy protection

M. CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alpha Natural Resources Inc., one of the country's biggest coal producers, became the latest in a string of coal companies to seek bankruptcy protection amid an historic shift in the electric power sector brought on by cheap natural gas and stricter pollution regulations.

Alpha operates about 60 coal mines, many in parts of Appalachia that have seen the sharpest declines in coal demand and coal prices as electric power customers have switched to natural gas. It is the fourth U.S. coal company to seek bankruptcy protection in the last 15 months. The bond rating agency Fitch expects coal companies to struggle in the future.

"The sector default rate is likely to increase further in the near term," its analysts wrote in a note to investors Monday.

The boom in natural gas production in the U.S.



This photo shows the Sidney Coal Company's Coal Preparation Plant in Sidney, Ky. Sidney is a subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources Inc. Alpha Natural Resources Inc., one of the country's biggest coal producers, became the latest in a string of coal companies to seek bankruptcy protection amid an historic shift in the electric power sector brought on by cheap natural gas prices and pollution regulations.

(AP Photo/Brian Tietz)

brought on by improved drilling techniques and hydraulic fracturing has ushered in a period of sharply lower natural gas prices. At the same time, clean air regulations are dimming the future for coal-fired

power because coal emits about twice as much carbon dioxide as natural gas, and far more pollutants such as soot and mercury. The average price of coal used for electricity from Central Appalachia is 20

percent lower than last year, according to Platts. In June, the price hit an eight-year low.

President Barack Obama on Monday will announce the first ever set of rules limiting greenhouse gas emis-

sions from existing power plants, a move that will likely reduce demand for coal even further.

Alpha, like many of its peers, is also struggling with a large debt load. Many coal producers borrowed money to fuel growth on the expectation that demand would soar around the world, especially in China, as hundreds of millions of people gained access to electricity.

Alpha took on debt, for example, to fund its \$7.1 billion acquisition of Massey Energy in 2011.

The company had approximately \$3.14 billion in long-term debt for the quarter ended March 31, according to a regulatory filing.

But clean-air concerns are pushing countries around the globe to look for alternatives to coal, and coal production in developing countries has also increased, reducing the need for U.S. coal. Also, a slow-down in construction growth in China has depressed prices for coal used to make steel. □

HSBC profit rises 10 percent, bank selling Brazil unit

HONG KONG (AP) — HSBC Holdings PLC, Europe's biggest bank, said Monday that strong performance in Asia helped to boost first-half profit by 10 percent. The bank also announced the sale of its Brazil business for \$5.2 billion.

Profit for the six months ending June 30 rose to \$13.6 billion, or 48 cents per share, said the bank which is listed on stock exchanges in Hong Kong and

London. Revenue rose 4 percent from a year earlier to \$30.8 billion. "Strong revenue performance across our Asia businesses helped drive increased profits," said CEO Stuart Gulliver in a statement. Gulliver cited growth in commercial banking in Hong Kong and Britain and in wealth management in Asia.

Also Monday, HSBC announced it is selling its business in Brazil to Banco

Bradesco SA as part of plans announced in June to simplify its sprawling global operations. HSBC said it would keep an operation in Brazil to serve major corporate customers.

HSBC operates in 70 countries and has about 51 million customers.

The June plans call for the London-based bank to cut about 10 percent of its workforce, or some 25,000 jobs, and reduce annual

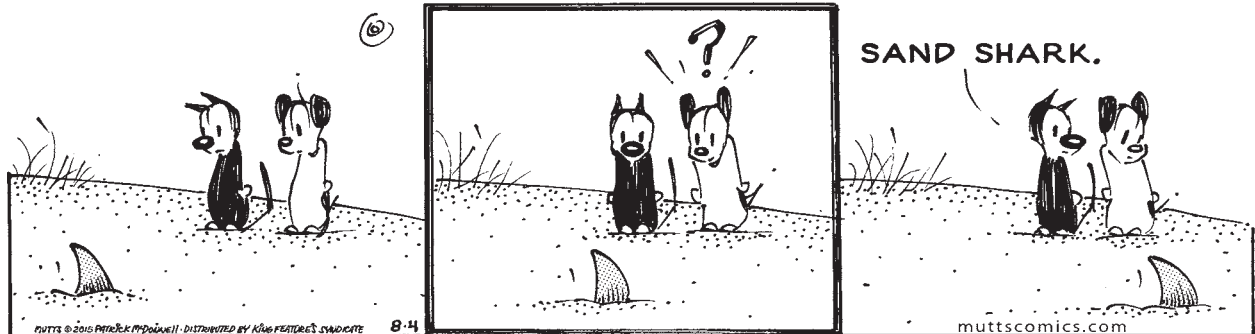
expenses by \$4.5-\$5 billion. The bank also has said it plans to sell its operations in Turkey.

HSBC has suffered a series of regulatory fines and crack-downs in Europe and the U.S. and wants to capitalize on Asia's rapidly expanding class of newly wealthy. The region accounted for about 75 percent of the bank's 2014 profit, even though only one-third of its staff are in the region.

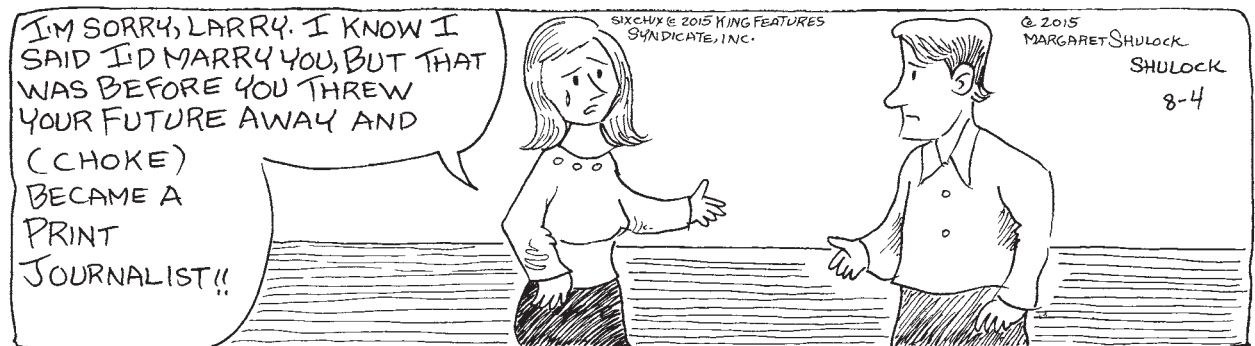
Growth initiatives include expanding business in China's Pearl River Delta near Hong Kong and in Southeast Asia and in asset management and insurance.

"Delivering these actions will create value for our customers and shareholders," said Gulliver's statement. "It will also help us to continue to adapt to the structural changes that are asked of us by regulators and legislators." □

Mutts



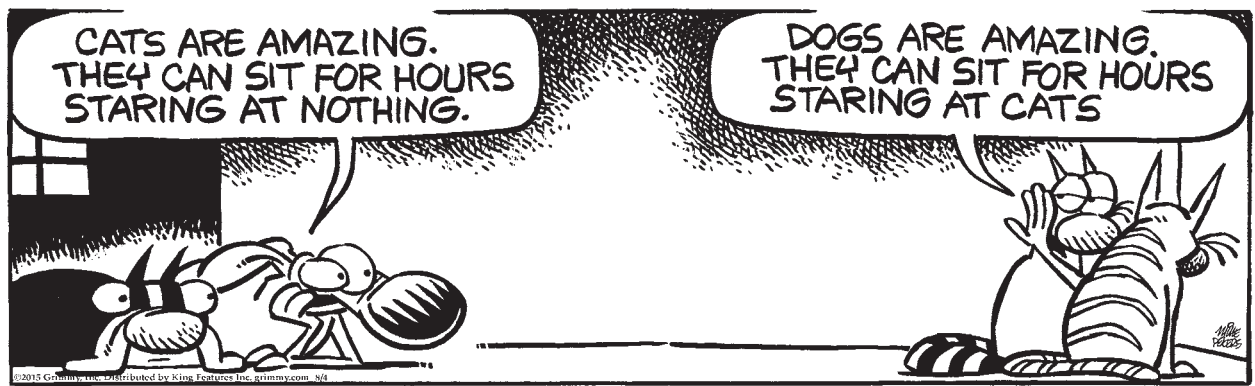
6 Chix



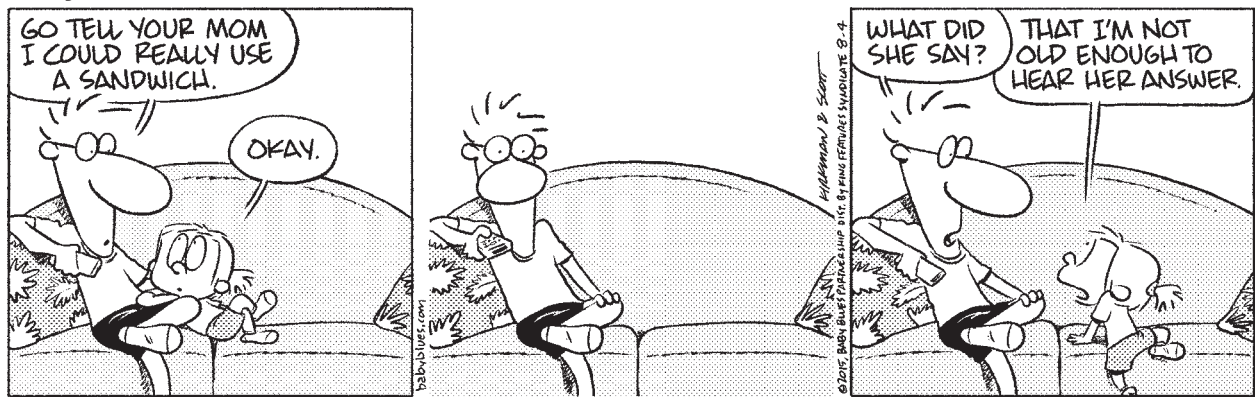
Blondie



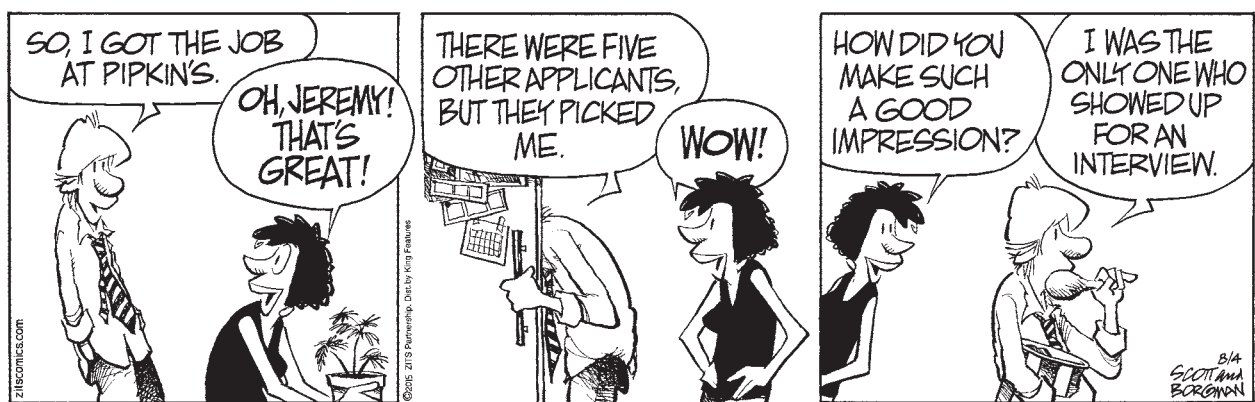
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5							
8			4	1			3	
		1		8	5			
	2				7	9		
	4	7				3	5	
		9	8				6	
			7	9		6		
	9			5	2			7
							4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	5	2	8	6	3	4	1
6	4	1	5	3	7	2	8	9
3	2	8	4	1	9	7	5	6
2	1	6	7	5	3	8	9	4
4	5	9	1	2	8	6	3	7
7	8	3	6	9	4	1	2	5
5	6	4	3	7	2	9	1	8
1	9	2	8	6	5	4	7	3
8	3	7	9	4	1	5	6	2

ACROSS

- 1 Long-haired ox
- 4 Objectives
- 9 Indian prince
- 13 Like yummy cinnamon rolls
- 15 Golfer Els
- 16 Gabor's namesakes
- 17 British noble
- 18 ___ to; pamper
- 19 Tattletale
- 20 Glittering
- 22 Elegant poems
- 23 Courts
- 24 Plays by ___; needs no sheet music
- 26 Divides
- 29 Jails
- 34 Exact duplicate
- 35 Fine dishes
- 36 Pelosi's title: abbr.
- 37 ___ out; pealed
- 38 Swindle
- 39 Coffee
- 40 Gobbled up
- 41 More cunning
- 42 Certain petty officer, for short
- 43 Retailer; trader
- 45 Wild brawls
- 46 That woman
- 47 Small brook
- 48 ___ fide; real
- 51 Childish
- 56 Ending for who, what or when
- 57 Brother's daughter
- 58 Long periods of history
- 60 Abound
- 61 Go into
- 62 ___ about; tout highly
- 63 Common conjunctions
- 64 In ___; weeping
- 65 Prepare Easter eggs

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
37				38						39			
40				41						42			
43								45					
		46					47						
48	49	50		51	52	53				54	55		
56				57						58		59	
60				61						62			
63				64						65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 8/4/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	T	E	D	G	L	A	D	F	E	L	L	
I	N	A	N	E	L	I	C	E	A	Q	U	A	
C	E	L	L	S	A	N	T	S	R	U	N	S	
E	S	C	A	P	A	D	E	I	C	E	A	G	E
C	A	F	E	P	R	O	W	L	E	R			
T	A	K	E	I	T	N	I	E	C	E			
A	S	A	R	E	V	E	L	A	L	A	R	M	
C	A	L	M	R	E	P	E	L	L	U	A	U	
K	N	E	A	D	N	A	D	I	R	S	I	S	
S	E	O	U	L	B	A	T	T	L	E			
P	E	S	T	E	R	S	C	E	D	E			
E	N	T	E	R	S	D	E	L	I	R	I	U	M
A	J	A	R	H	O	R	A	A	R	O	S	E	
C	O	L	E	U	F	O	S	N	O	T	E	S	
E	Y	E	D	T	A	P	E	T	R	A	S	H	

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- 35 Facial part
- 38 Woodwind
- 39 More fun-loving
- 41 TV's "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- 42 Waist accessory
- 44 Entices; allures
- 45 Ore seekers
- 47 Unser or Foyt
- 48 Sorority letter
- 49 Kiln
- 50 Requirement
- 52 Largest digit
- 53 Greek cheese
- 54 Washful
- 55 Be covetous
- 59 Observe

Turkey, Kurd rebels gear up for return to all-out conflict

Continued from Page 8

Many Kurdish politicians accuse Erdogan of escalating the tensions to undermine the main Kurdish political party after its election success in June parliamentary elections. They say Erdogan is hoping to tarnish the Kurdish party, widely considered to be the political arm of the PKK, so that he can win back his party's parliamentary majority in a possible repeat election in November.

The conflict escalated after a suicide attack in a crowd in the town of Suruc along the Syrian border. Turkish authorities say the bomber was trained by the Islamic State group and was targeting a group seeking to help Syrian Kurds across the border rebuild the city of Kobani, which IS had destroyed. But many Turkish Kurds accused the government of responsibility for the explosion, which killed more than 30 people.

Days later, as the government prepared airstrikes against the Islamic State group, two policemen were killed in an apparent PKK attack in a southeastern town, prompting the government to retaliate against the Kurdish rebels with airstrikes. Turkish authorities also began a nationwide terror sweep netting more than 1,300 Islamic State, Kurdish and leftist terrorist suspects. Yet the vast majority had affiliation with the PKK, which Turkey and the United States consider a terrorist organization. That prompted the Kurds to claim that Turkey's moves against IS were really a pretext to crack down on the Kurdish rebels.

Government officials countered that leaders simply moved decisively to protect the public at a precarious moment, in which both IS and the PKK — sworn enemies of each other — had mobilized simultaneously in Turkey.

Whatever the original motivations, the government's attention has turned single-mindedly to the PKK. Kurdish politicians and analysts say the airstrikes against Kurdish positions in north-

ern Iraq are more extensive than at the height of the conflict that left thousands dead from guerrilla warfare and terrorists attacks. Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency recently claimed

detained in recent days by Turkish authorities.

At a teahouse in the town center, Kurdish men were gripped in animated talk about the conflict, an intensity that showed a harden-



Metin Bekiroglu, right, accompanied by others talk about the recent round of violence between Turkey and Kurdish rebels, at a teahouse in the town of Lice, in southeastern Turkey. In an abrupt reversal, Turkey and the Kurdish rebels appear to be hurtling toward the return of an all-out conflict that plagued the nation for decades, before a fragile peace process was launched in 2012. (AP Photo/Desmond Butler)

that some 260 rebels had been killed in the air raids against PKK targets in Iraq, while the PKK charges that there have also been extensive civilian casualties. Many Turks fear that the peace process — which seemed on the verge of being clinched — is now dead. The forests near Lice were still smoldering on Friday. Military convoys passed along the main road, and soldiers manned checkpoints in areas that the PKK had controlled earlier in the week. In Lice, armored vehicles with mounted guns patrolled the streets. Local residents said that dozens of people, including journalist Bekiroglu, had been

ing of lines among ordinary Kurds. Murat Eser, who runs the teahouse, recalled the troubles of the 1990s at the height of the fighting, when Lice was burned, and said that locals wanted peace but were also willing to defend their rights.

He said he had gone to help put out the fire last week, and had seen the helicopters help spread it. Two women, he said, were badly burned in the blaze. "Our resistance is our life," said Eser, adding that he did not fear police retribution over his name being used. "The sheep and the wolves in this fight already know each other from before." □

Classifieds

TIMESHARE FOR SALE RENAISSANCE

Week	room	price
26	507	\$ 3,500
26	543	\$ 5,300
40	105	\$ 5000
48/49	119	\$ 4,500
30/31	524	\$3,500 each
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200
vr. Realty@mac.com

203548

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS For Sale

2 bedroom week 29 Room 125 pool side \$6,500 O.B.O.

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Some Midwest farmers' crops falter in record rains

RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —

Weeks of record rainfalls drenched Don Lamb's cornfields this summer, drowning some plants and leaving others yellowed, 2 feet tall and capable of producing little, if any, grain.

The 48-year-old central Indiana farmer can't recall anything like the deluges he's seen from late May on this summer; the latest was a 4-inch downpour a week ago. Neither can his father, who's been farming for 50 years. "I always try to stay optimistic about crops, but this is a year where it's been really tough to be optimistic," said Lamb, who began farming in 1989 near Lebanon, Indiana.

It's a scene playing out in Illinois and Indiana, both of which set rainfall records for June, and four other key farm states. Climatologists are assessing what brought on the repeated precipitation, keeping corn and soybean fields from drying out and setting the stage for big crop losses in several states just a year after record harvests. Those losses and their impact on crop prices are expected to be offset by bountiful harvests in the western cornbelt states of Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas.

The Midwestern Regional Climate Center in Champaign, Illinois, is looking into the causes of the rain-sodden summer — Illinois saw twice the normal amount of rain for the month of June alone — including whether the largest El Nino system in a decade or climate change played a role.

A stationary front that stalled over the region



Corn damaged by record rains that repeatedly submerged fields, stands in a field near Atlanta, Ind., Friday, July 31, 2015.

in late spring funneled in the parade of drenching low-pressure systems that swept the region throughout June and into July, said Bryan Peake, one of the center's climatologists.

"Some stations were getting three or four inches in a day, and some were all the way up to six or seven inches in extreme cases, just really astonishing amounts," he said.

East-central Illinois farmer Mark Henrichs isn't sure whether the crippling rains, which came three years after a devastating drought, might be tied to changes climate scientists have predicted global warming might bring. But the 58-year-old knows they were highly unusual.

"When you shatter rainfall records that have been existed for over 100 years, it does make you wonder ... If you're shattering rainfall records that are that old, you have to be experi-

encing atrocious damage. That goes hand in hand," said Henrichs, who has farmed for 40 years near Chatsworth, Illinois.

About half of his corn crop is now in "horrible" condition and the other half is average after 16 inches of rain in June and close to a foot in July, he said. Last year, he averaged 240 bushels of corn per acre; this year, he expects 165 bushels per acre.

Some corn and soybean plants were drowned, others were stunted with unhealthy roots while the rains washed away soil nutrients. Soybeans can still recover yields if conditions improve during the remainder of the growing season, but corn plants can rebound little this late in the season.

Indiana has seen the worst of it, said Chris Hurt, an agricultural economist at Purdue University. A quarter

of its corn crop is listed as "poor" or "very poor" and Hurt predicts \$500 million in corn and soybean crop losses. This week, Gov. Mike Pence asked U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for a disaster declaration for 53 of Indiana's 92 counties because of crop damage and other flooding-related losses.

Elsewhere, "poor" or "very poor" corn crop conditions are being seen in a fifth of Ohio's crop, 18 percent in Missouri, 15 percent in Illinois and about one-tenth in Kansas and Michigan.

The first clear assessment of the extent of the Midwest crop losses will come Aug. 12, when the USDA releases its first harvest estimates. But Hurt expects it won't be October until a truly accurate estimate emerges because of the many remaining variables, including warmer, drier weather in the forecast for August. There's no unscathed cropland in central Indiana's Boone County, a fact worsened by farmers' inability to boost crops with fertilizer, said Curt Emanuel, an agricultural educator for the Purdue Extension. Some farmers have taken the rare step of using crop-dusters to apply fertilizer on cornfields. □

Associated Press

U.S. wildlife agency says app can help log endangered species

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — U.S. wildlife officials want smartphone-owning outdoor lovers to use an app to report any endangered species they see in the wilderness.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Monday it is teaming up with Sweden-based FishBrain, a social network and free-to-use

mobile app for anglers. The product was developed so sport-fishing enthusiasts could share information on their catches.

The new effort helps anglers log any sightings of up to 50 at-risk species spotted as they trek to waterways. The federally protected animals across the country include shortnose sturgeons,

whooping cranes, Kemp's ridley sea turtles and Columbia white-tailed deer.

The federal conservation agency hopes the input will help researchers discover where the dwindling creatures are centralized, the habitat they need and maybe how the public can help protect native wildlife. □

Investigation Discovery network can get you hooked on crime

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Henry Schleiff wants to simplify your life.

He wants to school you in life lessons.

He wants to hook you on crime.

As a group president at Discovery Communications, Schleiff is boss of Investigation Discovery, or ID for short, a network whose motto might be: "Where bad things happen to good (or hapless or downright clueless) people."

ID is awash with real-life tales of greed, passion and outright evil served up with sassy titles like "A Crime to Remember," "I Almost Got Away With It" and "Who the (Bleep) Did I Marry?"

Hooked?! Think of watching ID as being turned loose in a frozen yogurt shop: one delectable product in countless flavors you just can't stop spooning up. Meanwhile, ID guarantees you practical tips.

"If you live on a farm and it's Halloween and there's a storm, you don't go down to the barn when you hear the door clanging," advises Schleiff, reflecting on a

sample episode's message. "Or: If you meet a guy in a library who's writing a book on serial murders, you don't invite him to move in with you right away."



In this Tuesday, July 21, 2015, photo, Henry Schleiff, a group president at Discovery Communications, poses for photos in his office, in New York. As boss of the Investigation Discovery network, Schleiff stays busy hooking viewers on crime.

Associated Press

Good to know. But what about ID making life simpler?

"Mystery and suspense is the most popular storytelling genre in the world," says Schleiff, "and there are lots of places on TV where you can watch it in bits and pieces. But we're the only network dedicated to it 24/7, 365 days a year. In a world of confusion, with 8,000 TV networks, we can

simplify things: We tell a good story any time."

So you might say ID is like whodunit wallpaper?

"It is absolutely wallpaper!" Schleiff agrees proudly.

He is a showman, a tireless promoter, a man who, at 67, describes his unflagging workplace gusto by citing Woody Allen's statement of affection in "Annie Hall": "Forget 'like' or 'love,'" says Schleiff. "I 'luurve' this stuff!"

He arrived at Discovery in 2009, when the fledgling ID was ranked 50th among cable networks. Now available in 86 million homes, it

is a top 10 network in the 25-to-54 demo and No. 1 in all of television among women 25-to-54 for how long they watch before changing the channel — nearly an hour. In addition, he oversees American Heroes Channel, Destination America, Discovery Family Channel and Discovery Life Channel.

Until 2009, he was head of Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movie Channel, and from 1998 to 2006, the boss of Court TV, which he pulled from the brink by introducing forerunners of ID-like crime fare to its prime-time lineup.

He began as a lawyer who, on the sly, submitted jokes to "Saturday Night Live," though without success. But his comic muse has served him since, like during staff powwows where prospective shows, and the wacky titles for them, are cooked up. He counts "Wives With Knives," a title as self-explanatory as it is euphonious, among his creations.

"We do the titles with a wink," Schleiff says. "Marketing, showmanship — we do anything, including those titles, to bring attention to our programming."

Concepts for series come from the network's development team as well as from the stable of independent producers tapped to make the shows.

What results are constantly replenished variations on a theme, with many ID series drawing from a shared pool of conventions: a victim and a perpetrator (often bonded by blood, marriage or raw passion); on-camera testimony from friends and family, law enforcement officials, maybe a psychologist, and a journalist who covered the story.

There are dramatizations, whose characters may closely resemble their real-life counterparts or, strangely, bear scant resemblance. It can go either way.

And most of the shows boast overheated narration, such as with the close-knit family whose "fabric will soon be torn under the strain of sex, lies and extraordinary allegations."

And don't forget the teenage girl who may have gone too far with her boyfriend: "There could be hell to pay if Ashley's parents think she's spreading more than her wings." □

Comic Amy Schumer, Senator Schumer call for better gun control

DAVID B. CARUSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedian Amy Schumer spoke tearfully of two women who were shot to death during a screening of her movie, "Trainwreck," and asked lawmakers Monday to support a gun control bill sponsored by her second cousin, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer.

"I've thought about these victims each day since the tragedy," she said at a news conference at the senator's office in New York.

"People say, 'Well, you're never going to be able to stop crazy people from doing crazy things,' but they're wrong. There is a way to stop them," she said.

The legislation would try to

improve a flawed background check system by creating monetary incentives for states that submit a robust amount of information to the federal database used to block sales to people with criminal records or a history of serious mental illness.

Movie theater gunman John Russell Houser shot 11 people during a screening of the film last month in Lafayette, Louisiana, before then killing himself.

He bought the gun in Alabama last year following a background check that failed to reveal that he had a history of psychiatric problems and had been the subject of domestic violence complaints. A Georgia judge ordered Houser detained for a mental evaluation in 2008

after relatives claimed he was dangerous.

Sen. Schumer emphasized that his bill, which would also create penalties for states that fail to submit records to the database, is about improving the background check system, not putting new restrictions on buyers.

Known best for her humor on women's sexuality and gender inequality, Amy Schumer was asked by reporters Monday whether she thought Houser purposely picked her film because of his negative views about feminism and liberals. "I got about a million emails from friends telling me, 'It could have been any movie,' and I'm trying to believe that. But I'm not sure," she said. "I think the idea of women's equal-



Actress Amy Schumer becomes emotional during a news conference while her distant cousin, New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, looks on in New York, Monday, Aug. 3, 2015.

Associated Press

ity making anyone upset is not anything I'll ever understand."

She said that she's always been in favor of smarter gun laws but that the shootings had made the issue "extremely personal." Schumer also said she expected backlash for

speaking out about guns, but she didn't care.

"I'll handle it the way I've handled it the last 10 years," she said. "I've had death threats and a lot of hate directed toward me. But I want to be proud of the way I'm living and what I stand for." □

Brian Williams still weeks away from reappearing at MSNBC

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Next week marks the end of Brian Williams' six-month suspension from NBC News for exaggerating his role in news stories, but he isn't expected back on the air in his new job at MSNBC for at least another month.

Williams was suspended on Feb. 10 after his story about flying in a helicopter hit by enemy fire in Iraq in 2003 was shown to be false, triggering an investigation into other incidents of self-aggrandizement in talking about his reporting. He lost his job as NBC's "Nightly News" anchor and was named a breaking news anchor at the cable news outlet. MSNBC hasn't announced a start date for Williams. The tentative target for his return is for the network's coverage of Pope Francis' visit to the United States, scheduled for Sept. 22-27, according to an executive there who spoke on condition of anonymity because plans aren't fully set.

Williams won't have a regular time slot at MSNBC, but will work during daytime hours on busy news days. MSNBC — which along with CNN runs a distant second to Fox News Channel in prime-time viewership — is in the midst of a makeover driven by poor ratings, jettisoning much of its opinionated daytime



In this Nov. 5, 2014 file photo, Brian Williams speaks at the 8th Annual Stand Up For Heroes, presented by New York Comedy Festival and The Bob Woodruff Foundation in New York.

Associated Press

programming.

New NBC News chief Andrew Lack is seeking to turn MSNBC into a breaking news outlet during the day, with assistance from NBC News personalities, and restrict its liberal viewpoint to the evening. Other than announcing Williams' role and the start of a new late afternoon show hosted by "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd, many of the details about MSNBC's plans remain under wraps. Besides giving MSNBC more time to retool, the pope's visit offers a relatively predictable news event for Williams to start back with. Williams' representative, Robert Barnett, declined comment on Monday.

It also enables him to at

least initially avoid stories that called to mind his transgressions. For example, Williams traveled to New Orleans several times to cover Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, and took pride in that work. However, some of his recounting of reporting in New Orleans was questioned in NBC's internal investigation.

NBC also hasn't detailed its plans for marking the upcoming 10th anniversary of Katrina making landfall in New Orleans; Williams is not expected to have a hand in it. Williams has remained out of NBC's offices, except for a day in June when he spoke to colleagues in New York and Washington and apologized for his actions.

□

UFC's Ronda Rousey to star in biopic based on her memoir

NEW YORK (AP) — Fresh off her knockout win, Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Ronda Rousey is headed to the big screen. Paramount Pictures said Monday that it has acquired the rights to Rousey's autobiography, "My Fight/Your Fight," with plans for Rousey to play herself in the adaptation.

The 28-year-old mixed martial artist has emerged as the sport's top female fighter. She's already drawn

interest from Hollywood, appearing in the films "Furious 7" and "Entourage." In a bout Saturday in Rio de Janeiro, she won by knockout 34 seconds into the first round.

The film will begin development with Mark Bomback penning the script. His credits include co-writing the screenplays to "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" and "The Wolverine."

Variety first reported plans for the film. □



This July 15, 2015, file photo shows mixed martial arts fighter Ronda Rousey smiles during her workout at Glendale Fighting Club, in Glendale, Calif.

Associated Press

Walt Disney experts rebut dogged anti-Semitic allegations



In this Dec. 23, 1965, file photo, Walt Disney poses for a photo with an Irish setter.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Walt Disney was a complex figure, both celebrated and condemned, but allegations that he was a rabid anti-Semite are unproven, Disney experts said.

Talking to TV critics Sunday about PBS' "American Experience" September documentary on Disney, composer Richard Sherman (Disney's "Mary Poppins," "The Jungle Book") dismissed such lingering criticism outright.

It's "absolutely preposterous to call him anti-Semitic," said Sherman, the son of Jewish immigrants. He and his brother Robert, his writing partner, were treated like sons by Disney, he said.

Historian and social critic Neal Gabler, author of "An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood," said he exhaustively researched Disney for the 2006 book "Walt Disney:

The Triumph of the American Imagination."

"I saw no evidence other than the casual anti-Semitism that" was common to non-Jews during Disney's 20th-century era, Gabler said.

Sarah Colt, producer and director of the four-hour

film airing Sept. 14 and 15, said a documentary she made about Henry Ford, who she described as a "virulent anti-Semite," gave significant attention to his views.

But there wasn't any evidence that Disney held such attitudes, she said, although the label has been attached to the man who launched a still-expanding film, TV and theme park empire on the back of the Mickey Mouse cartoon character.

The panelists' agreement on that topic was in contrast with their differing views on other aspects of Disney's life and accomplishments.

"Everyone was terrified" of Disney as a boss, Gabler said, calling him a stern taskmaster who demanded adherence to his creative visions.

More than panelist said that Disney didn't hesitate in firing workers he thought were falling short,

labeling them "deadwood."

Sherman, who began working for Disney in 1960, said he never feared him and believed the entertainment titan may have relaxed and mellowed by that point after decades of achievement.

But others said that Disney was driven to the end, and that on his deathbed in 1966 he was filling in his brother,

Roy, on his plans for the Epcot theme park at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Disney treated his employees like family, one panelist said, while another dismissed his kindness as a cynical ploy to get the most out of his workforce.

Sherman was steadfast in his defense of his former boss.

"He was a great soul, he really was. And he had his flaws, of course. Who doesn't? But the main thing is he was driven to do good things," he said. □

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